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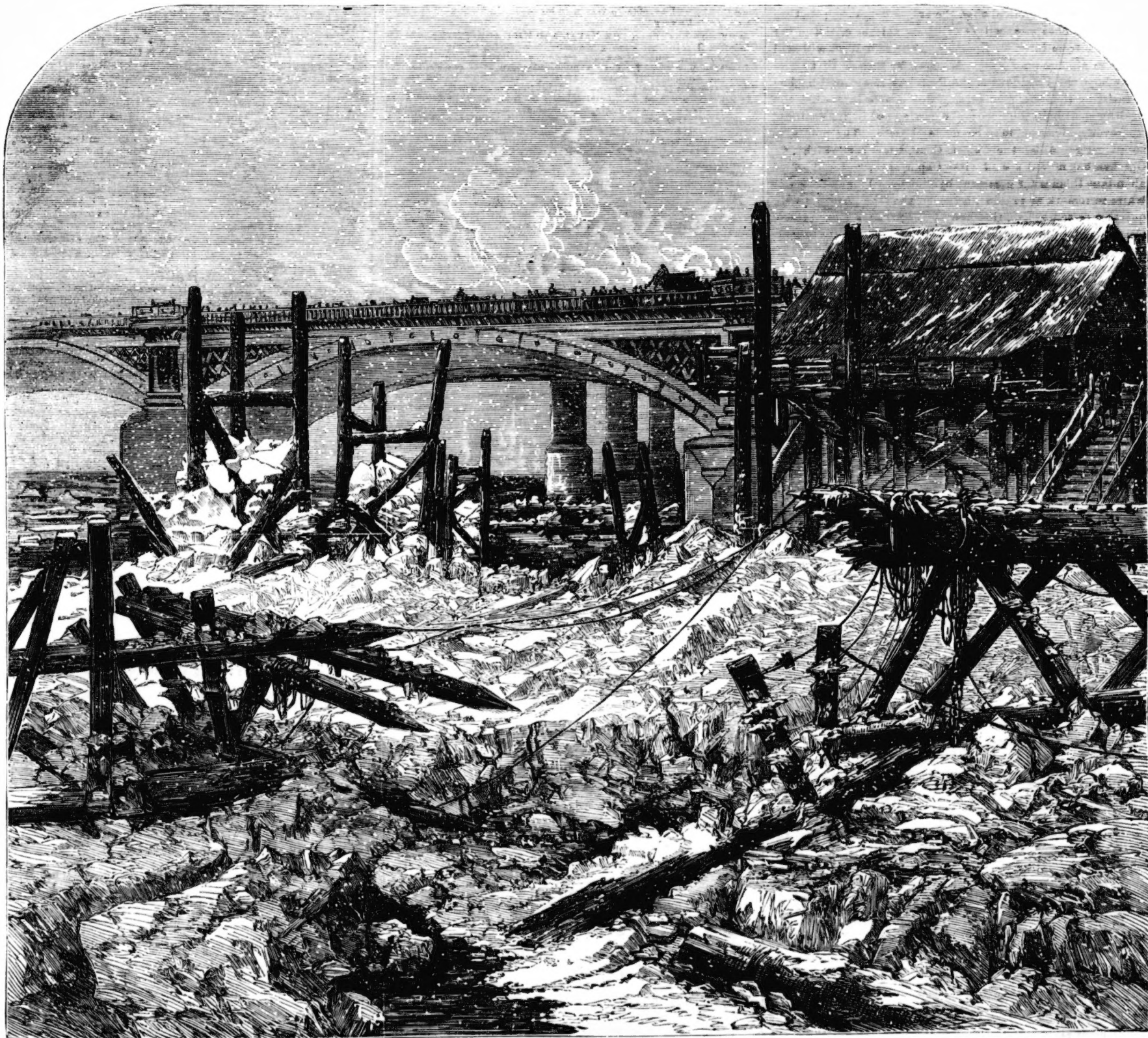
PARLIAMENTARY WORK.

MEMBERS of Parliament are clearly doomed to "six months' hard labour," and to rather strict, though not solitary, confinement to the walls of their respective chambers. Noble lords and hon. gentlemen had better don their working jackets and address themselves to business at once, for it is plain that no play is to be allowed them this Session. The Upper House, it is true, has had little to do as yet, and has been glad of such small deer as Lord Chelmsford's Sunday Trading Bill, which, if it be good for nothing else, at all events affords their Lordships "something to talk about," as the Duke of Somerset said the other evening. It is otherwise with the Lower House, however. Little more than a fortnight has elapsed since the assembling of Parliament, and the Commons' table is already loaded with a pile of bill, to discuss and pass almost any one of which

would have made the fortune of a Session in times not yet remote. Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues are evidently in terrible earnest; they mean business, and have cut out work enough to tax to the full the energy and diligence of Parliament. Private members, too, seem bent on contributing their fair share to the items in the programme; so, as we have said, it behoves noble lords and hon. gentlemen to brace themselves up for work, and "tackle to" with vigour. Let us glance at one or two of the measures they will have to deal with.

In the first place, there is the Irish Land Bill—a goodly bit of work in itself; but, we are glad to observe, not likely to cause so much difficulty as was at one time anticipated. Its provisions are meeting with some opposition, of course. The Fenians, or Nationalists, as they now call themselves, object to it, as we expected they would. Its sensible

and practicable proposals are not to their taste; as, indeed, no proposals calculated to content Ireland are likely to be; for with the advent of content in Ireland the agitators' occupation will be gone, and they must needs sink back into the obscurity that is their natural sphere, but which is most abhorrent to their noisy souls. The parties most immediately concerned, however—the farmers and landlords of Ireland—so far as they have yet declared themselves, seem inclined to accept the Government measure: the one class, because it gives as much as they could reasonably expect, though not all some of them demanded; and the other, because it takes away much less than they feared. Certain organs of Toryism in the press have urged an objection to the bill on the ground that it includes Mr. Bright's scheme for creating a class of peasant-proprietors—the scheme being distasteful to these writers mainly, as we fancy, because it is Mr.



THE THAMES IN WINTER CLOTHING: VIEW AT BLACKFRIARS.



Bright's. The objection, however, takes a rather curious shape. It is put something in this way: The Irish peasant-farmers are a thrifty race; they have accumulated large sums in the savings banks, which they will be sure to employ in purchasing their holdings whenever opportunities arise; and the present landlords will be sure to afford such opportunities in plenty, for who would care to continue a proprietor of the soil in so troubled and dangerous a country as Ireland? The result, according to the writers we are dealing with, will be that in a few years the soil of Ireland will to a very large extent, if not altogether, change hands; large estates and great magnates will disappear, giving place to small properties and proprietor-cultivators. So much the better, say we; and for these reasons:—Firstly, because we would rather see a man cultivating the soil for his own behoof than for the benefit of another; secondly, because Irish farmers, like other men, will be sure to improve in character, intelligence, industry, and thrift as their condition is bettered—they will rise equal to their fortune; and, thirdly, because the existence of an order of proprietor-cultivators will, as it seems to us, afford the best possible guarantee for loyalty and peace, inasmuch as men who have something to lose and nothing to gain by turmoil and sedition will inevitably range themselves on the side of law and order. We think, therefore, that Conservative journalists prove too much, and consequently prove nothing, by the argument they adduce against Mr. Bright's portion of the Land Bill for Ireland. For our part, we hope most devoutly that their prognostications will be realised.

Next in order of importance, as well as of time, comes Mr. Forster's education scheme; but as that is dealt with elsewhere, we pass it by here.

Lord Hatherley's law reforms, though most important and valuable, are so palpably desirable that they need not, as they probably will not, provoke discussion. The same remark, however, does not quite apply to Mr. Goschen's poor-law measures. They are pretty sure to undergo debate. The proposal to still further equalise the burden of pauperism over the whole metropolis, is a step in the direction of a great act of justice which we have long advocated as at once more fair and more economical than the existing system; but its fairness and cheapness will save it from neither criticism nor opposition from interested parties. The rich West will still object to aid the poor East. We may be sure of that; and so we hope the President of the Poor-Law Board will be firm in insisting that the true principle of a poor law—that the wealthy shall help the needy—be carried out in its entirety, whatever opposition may be made thereto. The points to be investigated by the Select Committee for which Mr. Goschen has moved are of vital importance, and will afford abundant themes for comment by-and-by. It may be worth while to remark at present, however, that the answer to the question raised by Mr. Goschen of "Who pays local rates—the owners or the occupiers of property?" calls for but one answer, as a rule; and that answer is, the occupiers. As all taxes are really paid by the consumers of taxed articles, and as occupiers of houses and lands are, so to speak, consumers of those articles, it follows that occupiers, and not owners, have to bear the local burdens thereon, and that owners pay only in so far as they are occupiers also—that is, consumers.

On one point there is room for much congratulation, and that is—that, if local burdens are heavy and increasing, imperial taxation appears likely to be appreciably lightened under the auspices of the present Government. The Army and Navy Estimates alone exhibit a reduction of nearly £2,000,000 sterling; and we may look for a diminution in the vote on account of the Civil Service also. But, be that as it may, we are sure of an easing of the national pocket equivalent to a reduction of about twopence in the pound on the income tax—though, of course, it is not likely that Mr. Lowe will give it to us all in that shape. Then the weekly returns of revenue and expenditure show that, whereas the national income is now (several weeks before the close of the financial year) within about £3,000,000 of the estimated amount, the expenditure is nearly £8,000,000 short of the sum calculated and voted last year. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is likely, therefore, to have a goodly surplus at his disposal—a matter for gratitude in the taxpayer and thankfulness generally that we have now Ministers in office who spend less than they ask for; and that there are not, as was but lately the case, men at the head of affairs who not only disbursed all they had granted to them, but a good deal more.

FATHER THAMES IN WINTER CLOTHING.

DURING the recent frosts the foreshore of the Thames has been made picturesque at low water by innumerable blocks of ice of considerable magnitude, looking like masses of Carrara marble distributed on the dark surface of mingled mud and shingle. It is not altogether pleasant, or even safe, to roam the banks of the Thames below high-water mark; otherwise the scene has lately been such as would repay a visit, more especially on the Surrey side opposite Westminster. Cautiously avoiding mudbanks and deep holes, where a man might perchance be smothered, the visitor might almost have fancied himself transported to the shores of an Arctic sea. Stretching away, both up and down the course of the river, would be seen masses of stranded ice waiting to be floated by the returning tide. Many of these blocks would be found higher than the stature of a man, the altitude varying from six or seven feet to ten, twelve, or even fifteen feet! How such masses of ice could be formed in the Thames without the river being frozen over, and at a time when the ice in the parks has been scarcely safe for skating, is a somewhat curious problem. The drift ice of the Thames has been measured by almost as many yards as the park ice has possessed inches. Without any serious probability of being frozen over, the Thames has been traversed by icebergs and ice-islands, which, by getting entangled with piles, piers, and tiers of vessels, have sometimes nearly bridged the stream from shore to shore. The Pneumatic Railway, which was to have crossed the bed of the river en route

from Scotland-yard to the South-Western terminus, has left a species of monument to its memory, in the shape of certain clusters of piles and beams, which the icebergs have been laudably endeavouring to knock to pieces, not entirely without success. At Blackfriars there has been a splendid barricade, made up of the ruins of the temporary timber bridge, flanked on one side by the new bridge of the Corporation, and on the other by the piers of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway bridge. The Corporation structure itself has not been free from timber, and all these elements put together naturally acted as a trap for the floating ice. When the rising tide, aided by milder weather, disturbed the collected mass, the scene was a miniature representation of the breaking up of the "pack" in the Polar Seas. In one place half an acre of ice would heave and plunge, bearing down massive piles and dragging them away, the whole collection of ice and timber floating off with the tide. Adventurous barges, drifting with the stream, came floundering along the narrow channels, doing battle with ice and timber—sometimes to their own peril and damage—tearing off their wooden "wings," chafing their gunwales, carrying away tackle, and getting their boats adrift. To the untutored eye the floating ice appeared like slabs of a few inches in thickness. But this river ice has been of a coarse and conglomerate character—rather a rotten ice than otherwise. Its porous and permeable nature seems to have lessened its buoyancy. It was, in fact, "leaky" ice, ready to sink, and burying nearly all its bulk below the surface of the water. These icebergs were probably formed by the super-position of numerous flakes which happened to overlap each other. Some of these blocks became so entangled in the nests of piles which beset the stream that at low water they were suspended aloft, as in a species of colossal cage. But their appearance has served to give the Thames a wonderfully wintry look, and to the steam-boats and lighters they have been an unutterable nuisance.

A YOUNG GENTLEMAN NAMED GEORGE CROFT was drowned last Saturday evening while skating on a private pond in view of his father's residence at Edgbaston, near Birmingham.

THE GOVERNMENT EDUCATION BILL.—A conference of trades unions was held, on Wednesday, at Halifax, for the purpose of considering the provisions of the Government Education Bill. Mr. George Howell, of London, attended the meeting as a deputation from the National Education League. A resolution was passed to the effect that the bill of the Education League was the only one that ought to receive the support of the working population of the country, inasmuch as it would secure to every child the blessings of education, and that no scheme would be satisfactory to the people unless it was compulsory, unsectarian, and free.

THE HEALTH OF MR. BRIGHT, M.P.—We are glad to learn, from an unquestionable source, that there is a daily improvement in the health of Mr. Bright. There is every prospect that he will soon feel stronger, but it is not probable that he will be able to resume his work for some weeks yet. Great care is required to keep his mind free from anxiety, and, with the exception of occasional readings to him by members of his family, papers and letters are banished from his rooms. He is able, however, to take outdoor exercise, and most of his time is spent in walks and drives in an open carriage, which refresh him more than anything else. Our readers, all of whom we are sure have sympathised most deeply with Mr. Bright during his illness, will be glad to know that his improvement holds out the hope that he will be able to return to his public duties at no very distant date.—*Leeds Mercury.*

WHY NOT RETRENCH THE NAVAL AND MILITARY SINECURES?—The Gladstone Government have made some praiseworthy efforts to lessen the public burdens. But why are the numerous military and naval sinecures left almost untouched? For example, why are there (as Mr. Childers has stated publicly) 317 unemployed admirals supported by the nation? The greater part of these were never needed in the slightest degree. About 150 generals are paid additional salaries of from £1000 to £2000 a year each for being colonels of regiments which are commanded by lieutenant-colonels or other officers, paid still additional salaries. The present British system has been thus summarised—"Three admirals to every line-of-battle ship, and two generals to every regiment!" It is worse than absurd. The reason why it continues is that the parties peculiarly interested have immense influence in both Houses of Parliament, and have hitherto successfully resisted every attempt at amelioration. And they will successfully resist even the Gladstone Government unless the people bestir themselves. For many of these sinecurists and their friends call themselves "Liberals." That the people need to shake off such burdens is abundantly obvious. In every locality the taxes and rates have become all but insupportable. For example, at Liverpool, in 1867, there was issued 9632 summonses for non-payment of the corporate taxes alone; in 1868, 8552 summonses, and nearly 10,000 summonses in 1869. Why, then, should so many sinecures be continued? It is for the people to ask themselves, and answer for themselves, and see that their representatives help them in the matter.

DR. TEMPLE AND CONVOCATION.—A letter, dated the 19th inst., has been addressed to the Dean of Gloucester by the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, giving, as his Lordship trusts, an exact and impartial account of what has recently taken place in Convocation with regard to Dr. Temple. The Bishop states that, on the morning of Feb. 9, prior to the meeting of Convocation, he received a note from the Archbishop of Exeter, announcing that he was empowered to make the important statement relative to the withdrawal of the essay which he afterwards made that same morning in Convocation. On receipt of that letter, the Bishop of Gloucester states that he determined not by one ungentle word to prevent that statement being made by Dr. Temple himself in the Upper House of Convocation; but, although the Bishop of Exeter spoke in the debate on a motion by the Bishop of Lincoln, seconded by the Bishop of Gloucester, he maintained that that day silence should be observed on the subject. The Bishop of Gloucester concludes his letter as follows:—"The Bishop of Exeter, melancholy and disastrous sequel. On the Thursday the Bishop indicated a desire to make a personal statement, and on Friday the so-called explanation was made—an explanation on which I will say no more than this, that I am convinced that the longer the Bishop of Exeter lives in his diocese the more acutely will he regret much of what he then said. No answer could be returned. It was a personal explanation, to which the rules of Parliament and Convocation preclude reply. The only answer that could be given—sorrowful and rebukeful silence. Since that, only yesterday, the Bishop properly states in the *Times* that Archbishop Freeman was fully justified in making the announcement which he made at the opening of Convocation. But it is now too late. The startling impression produced by the Bishop's explanation cannot be removed by the admission of carelessness. Those of us who, trusting the announcement and hoping, with that charity which is the mark of all things, that what we now learn was an authoritative statement would have been made by the Bishop himself, are distressed and shocked beyond words. Instead of peace there can now only be, at least for the present, continued doubt and estrangement."

THE IRISH AND THE LAND BILL.—The Earl of Granard, who, in September, 1869, wrote to the *Freeman's Journal*, expressing the conviction that "the true solution of the land question was to be found in the passing of an Act which would give the force of law to the customs of Ulster, extend its beneficial provisions to the whole of Ireland, and at the same time provide for a periodical Government valuation for letting purposes, with power of appeal in case of dispute to a local and inexpensive tribunal, such as the Court of Quarter Sessions," writes again to the same journal to say that he still adheres to that opinion. With regard to the Government Land Bill, he complains of "the error of not defining and extending the salutary provisions of the Ulster custom to the rest of Ireland, the inadequacy of the compensation scale, and the injustice of the power whereby the landlord can destroy the tenant's occupancy right by the tender of a lease for thirty-one years. In Lord Granard's part of the country the scale for compensation for eviction would be totally inadequate, and would, he points out, eventually lead to a consolidation of farms. His Lordship, however, will indulge in no 'factious' opposition to the bill; but he 'feels it a duty he owes to his country and those who are associated with him to endeavour to amend the bill, and to make the opinion of the tenant farmers of Ireland felt and recognised by her Majesty's Ministers and the Parliament of the United Kingdom.' A meeting was held at Galway on Monday, at which resolutions were unanimously adopted, thanking Mr. Gladstone for the 'spirit he has displayed in proposing a more equitable arrangement for the settlement of the relations between landlord and tenant than has hitherto prevailed in Ireland; but, reiterating the opinion 'that any measure purporting to adjust the relation between landlord and tenant in Ireland cannot be accepted as completely settling the question of the tenure of the land, or which falls in recognition to the fullest extent of tenure for payment of rent according to such valuation.' Resolutions were also passed in favour of a cottage and an acre of land for every labourer; and recommending the imposition of a tax of 25 per cent on the income of absentee landlords. Sir Shafto Adair has published a letter addressed to the tenant farmers of the county of Antrim, suggesting that they should confirm and adopt by meeting, either local or general, the policy of the Land Bill, and record their opinion of the wisdom and forethought of the measure by their spontaneous action in public assembly. The letter, he says, is addressed to tenant farmers of Antrim because it is mainly owing to their declarations that a way was found of passing unharmed through a great national crisis; and to their calm confidence in the justice of their claims is to be attributed the fact that the beneficial custom of Ulster will be consolidated into the law of the land.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

Two important decrees were published on Tuesday in the *Journal Officiel*. The first abolishes the power, now vested in the law officers of the Crown, of drawing up the list of Judges who are to officiate during the year, and restores the power to the members of the Bench themselves. The second decree appoints a commission to inquire into the evils of the present centralised system of administration.

The Chamber of Accusation of the High Court of Justice in France has found a true bill against Prince Pierre Bonaparte, and he is to be sent for trial. The Prince is charged with having committed wilful homicide on the person of Victor Noir, and with having attempted to commit wilful homicide on the person of Uric de Fonvielle. As soon as the decision of the Chamber was arrived at, it was communicated to the Prince. He said, in reply, that publicity was the best way to elicit the truth, and that he hoped the trial would take place without delay. This will be the case. An Imperial decree has been published, ordering the High Court of Justice to assemble at Tours on March 21 to try the Prince.

In the Chamber, on Monday, M. Jules Favre brought forward his question respecting the home policy of the Government, and in the course of his remarks censured the Ministry for not having yet proved that it was the will of the country that governed. M. Pinard, the late Minister of the Interior, said that the majority did not fear a dissolution. He admitted, however, that the system of official candidatures had been carried too far, and spoke in favour of extending the practice of decentralisation. On Tuesday the debate was resumed by Count Daru, the Minister for Foreign Affairs. He said that France, no longer under arbitrary rule, was now a free country, in favour of order based on liberty, but opposed to all excesses. The Ministers were of one mind, and would work together to carry out the business of the State. There was no necessity to agitate the country and place it in danger. The Ministry, if not in harmony with the Chamber, would appeal to the Emperor; but this was an improbable event. Count Daru then defended the Cabinet from the charge of having done nothing, asked for time to prepare reforms, and, in conclusion, called upon the House to give its verdict. This speech appears, according to the telegram, to have been considered so satisfactory that the Left Centre and Right Centre at once agreed upon an order of the day expressing confidence in the Ministry. Ultimately the order of the day was passed by 236 to 18. In Wednesday's sitting the Ministry was requested by M. Picard to declare formally whether it abandoned the system of official candidature. The Minister of the Interior, who had previously given some explanations on the subject, thereupon said that Parliamentary Government implied the discontinuance of such candidatures, but that the Ministry did not intend to give up the right of making known who were and who were not its friends.

A Paris telegram states that the French Government has decided, in consequence of the note which Count Beust has sent to Rome on the subject of the Papal Syllabus, to invite all the Catholic Powers to collective action against the pretensions of the Holy See. According to an analysis which has been published of Count Beust's note, the Papal Government is therein warned not to take any measures opposed to the Austrian Constitution, or calculated to lead to encroachments on Austrian State rights, and is at the same time informed that the Government will not permit any such encroachments. In sending this note, Count Beust is said to have acted entirely on his own initiative. He had been informed that canons had really been submitted for adoption to the council condemning laws which form part of the Austrian Constitution, and forbidding Austrian Catholics to obey those laws. He therefore thought it necessary to express his views on the subject at once.

In accordance with a proposal of the new Prefect of the Seine, the Municipality of Paris has sanctioned the issue of the loan of ten millions sterling (£20,000,000).

A terrible accident has occurred at the ironworks at Fourchambault. A boiler exploded, and eight persons were most severely burnt. Among the sufferers was the son of the proprietor of the establishment. Five of the injured persons have died from the results of the burns.

ITALY.

Signor Sella has concluded a convention with the National Bank, in accordance with which the loan of 378,000,000 lire will be increased to 500,000,000. The Treasury will therefore receive an additional sum of 122,000,000, of which 50,000,000 will be in gold and 72,000,000 in notes. The bank is to receive, as a guarantee, ecclesiastical property bonds, which it will sell exclusively on account of the decrease of the public debt. Moreover, the notes in circulation of the bank will be increased from 750,000,000 to 800,000,000.

ROME.

A French Catholic journal, *Le Monde*, states that several ecclesiastics, acting for absent Bishops at the Council in Rome, have taken part in recriminations and intrigues unworthy of the character with which they are invested and of the respect that they, beyond all others, owe to the Holy See, and that they have, accordingly, been requested to leave the Holy City and return home. Among these ecclesiastics is a theologian attached to the person of Cardinal Hohenlohe, brother of the Bavarian Minister, who is accused of sending letters to the *Augsburg Gazette*. Several ecclesiastics from North America are also among those ordered to leave Rome.

SPAIN.

Don Carlos has been arrested at Lyons, on the ground that he was about to organise an insurrection in Spain. He was requested by the French Government to take up his residence in the north of France or to proceed to a foreign country. He chose the latter course, and has gone to Switzerland.

GERMANY.

Dr. Simson has been re-elected President of the North German Parliament, and Duke Ujest and Count Bennigsen Vice-Presidents of the Assembly, by 144, 143, and 101 votes respectively out of 155. No opposition candidate had more than five votes recorded in his favour. The members of the Liberal-Conservative party have agreed for the present not to move any Address in answer to the Speech of the King.

RUSSIA.

A telegram from St. Petersburg announces the death in that city, after four days' illness, of Mr. Anson Burlingame, the Chinese Envoy. Mr. Burlingame was an American. He received his appointment from the Chinese Government in 1868, and since that date has been officially visiting the various Courts of Europe, with the members of the Embassy, in order to establish more direct diplomatic relations between China and the Western Powers.

EGYPT.

The British Government has approved the labours of the International Commission on the jurisdiction question. The points raised by the Commission will receive immediate consideration from the British Government.

Accounts from the Suez Canal mention that the obstructions have almost disappeared, and that there is now a uniform depth of 19 ft. of water. The rock near Serapeum, which formed the chief obstacle, has been blasted by a new fulminating powder, which has had only to be placed on the surface of the stone to break it up, the labour and cost of boring being thus avoided. It is now reckoned that an outlay of about £800,000 will render the canal navigable throughout for the heaviest class of men-of-war.

THE UNITED STATES.

The Senate, by a party vote, has passed the House bill to admit Mississippi to representation in Congress under the same conditions as those prescribed in the case of Virginia. The bill, having received the signature of the President, is now law. The House of

Representatives, by a strict party vote, has given the seat of Mr. Greene, the Democratic member for New York, to Mr. Van Wyck, the Radical contestant of the election. The House of Representatives has also adopted, by vote 108 to 73, a resolution instructing the Banking Committee to bring in a bill increasing the green-back circulation by fifty million dollars.

NOVA SCOTIA.

The Nova Scotia Parliament was opened on the 17th inst., by the Lieutenant-Governor. After alluding to the proofs of loyalty manifested during the visit of Prince Arthur, his Excellency congratulated the Parliament upon the harvest, which was above the average both in quantity and quality, and upon the unusually productive condition of the fisheries. He announced that a report was being prepared showing the advantages afforded by Nova Scotia for the immigration of artisans and unemployed labourers; he also expatiated upon the natural advantages of the province, and appealed to the patriotism of the Parliament to assist in their development.

AUSTRALASIA.

We have advices from Australia to the 1st inst. The revenue returns for Victoria were highly satisfactory, the receipts being £200,000 over the estimates. In New South Wales Mr. Robertson had resigned the Premiership. In New Zealand, Ti Kooti was surrounded by the Maori King and some of the principal chiefs, and, finding his escape impossible, he was suing for peace. The resolutions proposed by Mr. Higinbotham in the Melbourne Parliament with regard to the relations between England and her colonies were, shortly before Parliament rose, agreed to without amendment. On the first resolution, declining to send representatives to the proposed Colonial Conference, and reflecting upon the action taken by colonists resident in England with respect to this matter, an amendment was moved, with the view of rendering the resolution less offensive to those gentlemen, but it was negatived by a large majority. The like fate befell an amendment on the second resolution, which declared that the colony was willing to accept the entire responsibility of defending itself from foreign invasion. The amendment was to the effect that the colony would undertake its defence in connection with the Imperial Government; but the great majority of members preferred the original resolution, and, together with the other, it was agreed to.

THE PACIFIC ROUTE.

(Continued from our last Number.)

"At three o'clock p.m. on the Wednesday after leaving Omaha, we arrived at Promontory. The gradient is so severe the last few miles that, before leaving Salt Lake plain, the train is divided and an engine attached to each half. We are now at the termination of the Union Pacific Railroad, 1084 miles from Omaha, where it commenced, and change cars to the Central Pacific Railroad. This is not very troublesome, as the lines come to one platform; but, if the two companies would agree to use the same cars throughout, this trouble would be spared the traveller. Our new car is a Silver Palace Car—another sounding name—and for our sleeping accommodation to Sacramento we are charged six dollars. These cars are not so massive and grand looking as the Pullman Cars; but they are quite as comfortable, and the cautious traveller will see in their shortness and lightness a greater element of safety in severe gradients and sharp turnings. So far, our journey has averaged about twenty miles an hour, including all stoppages.

"We stay here two or three hours, and have some time to look about the place. Promontory is like every station passed since leaving Omaha, in being merely a number of wooden shanties, some with only canvas roofs; but here they are erected close alongside each other, forming an unbroken line of about 150 yards on the north side of the track. In the places we had passed the houses were separated, standing, in fact, in their own ground. At every stopping place there are a lot of men loitering about the platform, who seem to have nothing to do, and with an unwashed, unkempt, able-to-work-but-not-willing look about them. I thought these men might be the unemployed of the neighbourhood, attracted to the station as the most lively place within reach. They were uniformly quiet and sober. The long stay at Promontory has attracted another class to that place, and, on finishing our dinner—by-the-way, a very poor one—we found three open-air gambling entertainments provided for us. Two of them were new to me, but the other was our old friend the 'little joker,' so popular on Epseom Downs. Twenty-dollar gold pieces were staked by people who usually won; but it required small acuteness to see the confederacy. Several of us were invited to drink; but we did not see it in the same light, and politely declined. All the houses are, with two or three exceptions, restaurants or saloons, and a share of the population—in all, perhaps one hundred—vile pariahs of humanity who stay here to prey upon any weak-minded passengers they can induce to drink or play. Such a hyena-like parcel of scoundrels are to be seen no where else. Let no passenger stay here who wishes to keep his goods, perhaps even his existence. When fair (?) means fail to dispossess a man of what they covet, small compunction will they have about employing the means that will. This will no doubt be remedied in time. Promontory, like every other place, has to go through its primary stages with those great civilisers of the West—whisky and six-shooters. At this place the last spike was driven that connected the two lines. It was a gold one; which, however, was carefully taken out again, and one made of California laurel-wood substituted. This was whittled away by curiosity admirers; and I know not how many pine ones have already fallen a prey to them. A passenger vigorously attacked the one in possession, and became the happy possessor of a piece the size of a toothpick.

"An ordinary station on the Union Pacific is two or three houses alongside the line, and a few scattered about, which are nearly all saloons or restaurants; some fences, a few drays, and a self-acting windmill pumping water for the locomotive. Laramie, which is rather more than half-way from Omaha, is 'quite a place.' There we found a 'National Theatre,' and a few other adjuncts of an older civilisation. Occasionally we saw a building labelled 'Dry Goods, Groceries, and Provisions'; but saloons would in any place include more than half the erections.

"We left Promontory early on Wednesday afternoon, and, after descending rapidly for a few miles, we again reached the shores of the Salt Lake, and ran along the beach, sometimes within a hundred yards of the water. The next morning (Thursday) we breakfasted at Elko, and this was the best meal since leaving Omaha. We had salmon and beefsteaks, California grapes, peas, &c., and the charge was 75 cents in silver, equal to 1 dol. in greenbacks. We had now got beyond the places where paper money was current, and it only passed here for three fourths of its face value.

"Elko is at the head waters of the Humboldt river; and our track now lay down the valley of this river for about 180 miles, not very far from it, yet only seeing it two or three times until it empties itself into the lake of the same name. The place has several streets, and a cheerful, thriving look about it. It appears to do something besides supporting saloons. Here we found a circus and an opera-house; but the latter name must not be understood in a European sense, as it has become quite popular in America for all sorts of houses of entertainment, from tenth-rate singing-saloons upwards. Montana stages connect here, and we saw one arrive, with its six half-wild mustangs. It had been stopped and robbed, the day before, by some armed men, who were, however, satisfied with the gold-dust box, and let the passengers alone. The ground here is a sort of stiff clay; but it is covered with sage-brush, and alkali patches are here and there. We are now in Nevada, the richest in minerals of all the Territories.

"The valley of the Humboldt is tame and quiet, after the Weber Canon, though at the Palisades it looks a little wild. It had been dry so long, the dust was very annoying; and impenetrable clouds followed the train. We sometimes saw the dust rising in the distance, and, on nearing the object, found its cause to be the solitary

horseman of G. P. R. J. wending his way to some station. This valley has one special beauty: the mountains which surround it some distance off shut out the sun earlier than on the plains, giving an hour of delicious twilight, when the summits are seen clear and sharp against the sunny western sky, and the mountain sides are covered by a dreamy purple haze. Flowers and birds will come with civilisation, but the charm must ever be of sky and atmosphere. Natural beauty in this country frequently disappears on the approach of man; but in the Humboldt Valley it is, happily, beyond his reach.

"At a small stopping-place we found a family of Shoshoné Indians. The noble red man of this part of the continent will not bear close examination, even after making allowances for his not being of the high eastern type that Cooper has done so much for. There is no romance about him: dirt, whisky, and squalid wretchedness are his principal surroundings. Since entering on to the Central Pacific Railroad at Promontory, we came across parties of Chinese at work; at Carlin there was an encampment of them living in canvas tents. I spoke to about a dozen, who were all natives of Canton, and understood no English until coming here. They get extravagant wages for working on the lines; but they all tell one story: they would go home as soon as they saved some money. They complain of their bad treatment; and there is no doubt but the 'Damned nigger' theory is at the bottom of it. It is chiefly from those whose labour is interfered with by the coolies that they experience any bad treatment; fellow-labourers on the line are the offenders.

"Before reaching the eastern base of the Sierra Nevada we have got beyond the alkali and sage-brush country, and the soil looks as if it wanted only irrigation to make it fruitful. But really the traveller will experience no greater disappointment than in the sterile and unpromising look of the country he passes through. From near Omaha to the town of Humboldt, say 1400 miles, the train passes through a land in only a few places better than actual desert.

"On Friday morning I was awakened early by the cold, and I knew we were crossing the Sierra. The ground was covered with frost, but there was no snow. Donner Lake and a great many views are shut out here, as the road has a wooden shed built over it, to protect it from snow-drifts in winter, which are very severe at this elevation, so that we were passing through a wooden tunnel. Early in the morning we were at the summit of the highest point, an elevation of 7000 ft., and stopped a little beyond—at Cisco station—for breakfast, which was a good meal of salmon and beefsteaks, coffee, fruits, &c., charge 75c. We soon got quit of the snow-sheds, and could see the mountains covered with lofty pines. The train winds round the mountains, the peaks of which never appear to get higher or the track lower, though we are descending all the time. This is because the western sides of the Sierra slope gradually down to the California plain. We sometimes go round a peak with the ravine a thousand feet sheer down below us, making one involuntarily start back from the car window; but the speed is here reduced so much as to make accidents as nearly an impossibility as human care can. Some idea may be formed of the nature of the labour required from the fact that there are more than 18,000 ft. of bridging and tunnelling on this part of the road. Some of the trestle bridges are 100 ft. high; and as they sometimes describe an arc, one can get a partial side view of the place the train came on at, before it gets off at the other end. These are crossed at a walking pace, the creaking of the timbers inducing a feeling of insecurity; and there is nothing reassuring in seeing the bridge, with its cobweb style of architecture. Every turning of the train brings us into a milder temperature. Passing Colfax, we come on to some hydraulic mining, where the mountains are being gradually washed away to extract the gold. Watercourses are carefully preserved here, and streams are carried along in wooden ducts to where they are utilised for gold washing. By the trim and even ornamental appearance of the houses now, one sees the evidences of a settled country, and a little past Auburn we come to the first church since leaving Omaha, at least to the first building that looks like one.

"We are now in the rich valley of the Sacramento river, and stop at Roseville junction for our last meal. A ride of eighteen miles to Sacramento city takes us to the end of our journey by rail; here we connect with the steamer for San Francisco, which is reached at midnight, seven days and seven hours from New York.

"I had an impression before starting that the journey would be exhausting; but I felt nothing of the sort, and on reaching the hotel I did not feel so tired as one usually does after an ordinary day's sightseeing. I had, however, been only five days and a half on one stretch, as I started from Chicago. My train on the Michigan Central was several hours too late to connect at Chicago, so I had to remain there over one day. But I felt as if two nights more would have had no effect whatever. Two or three passengers complained the last two days of headache, and a feeling of weariness along the line of the spine. This was no doubt the effect of the constant jolting; no persons in health will have any difficulty in performing the journey without a break, if they can only sleep at night; but this is a necessary condition. I had provided myself with a thick jacket and rug, expecting that it would be cold on the mountains, but I did not require them. We had only a few hours cold while crossing the Sierra Nevada. The weather was bright, clear, dry, and sunny all the way; it was warmer on the western slopes of the Rocky Mountains than on the other side. In winter this trip will be quite another thing, and to be snowed up is a possibility that will deter many people from going. They can no doubt make the trip in six days in summer, but ice-covered rails do not admit of such speed. The whole trip will be piercingly cold in winter, and for half the distance Arctic in its severity.

"The fare on the Central Pacific is much better than on the Union Pacific, but of such as it is there is abundance. All meals are alike—breakfast, dinner, and supper, there is only the nominal difference. When the train stops all the passengers troop into a building usually marked 'Eating House,' and as soon as you are seated you are asked if you will have tea or coffee. The latter was execrable at some of the mid-stations; the tea throughout had at least this negative virtue, that, if not fine it had nothing disagreeable about it. No one ever asked for beer or wine, and if this is wanted the traveller had better carry it with him. There is, at nearly all stations, plenty of good milk and eggs. The table is covered with dishes of corn, beans, tomatoes, &c., scraps of meat on small platters, with sometimes larger pieces on dishes. Small loaves, here called biscuits, corn-bread, and corn-cakes, with pumpkin and fruit pies. All these would be excellent if they were only sufficiently baked, but bread, &c., is usually only half-baked; while meat is nearly always cooked beyond recognition. When given the option, ask for your cut rare, you will then find it done enough. Mountain air is, however, a capital appetizer, and I felt the rough fare no hardship.

"These eating-houses have all American waiters until you get to California, where you find Chinese; but, though obliging and attentive, it is plain they have taken to the business lately—waiting, like most other things, requiring some apprenticeship. This is a phase of the adaptability of the Americans. These same men were, perhaps, navvies or stage-drivers last year, and may be express-men or tectotal lecturers next. I found the conductor of our train on the Central Pacific Railroad was formerly a purser on the Yangtze; and on the same line there is an engine-driver who, a few years ago, was captain of one of the finest of the Hankow steamers.

"I have said the passenger had better carry whatever he wants to drink with him, and this applies to more than the Pacific Railroad. There is at present some legislative interference with the sale of liquor in the State of Iowa; and in travelling on the Chicago and North-Western Railroad, where it crosses the Mississippi from Illinois to Iowa, there is a saloon on the Illinois side with the sign 'The Last Chance'; and, after having passed through Iowa and crossed the Missouri to Omaha, in Nebraska, there is another saloon with the sign 'The First Chance.' The meaning is obvious. The saloon signs are sometimes very significant and amusing. In San Francisco one was opened and

called 'The Spot.' Fortune smiled, and a competitor opened alongside with the sign 'The Identical Spot,' which induced the third, who hung out 'The Very Identical Spot.' The old western name 'Dewdrop Inn,' has become somewhat common here. But this is digressing. The trains on the Union Pacific average a higher rate of speed than on the Central. From Omaha, to Promontory, all stoppages included, we made about twenty miles an hour; but from Promontory to Sacramento, the average was only fifteen, owing to the severe gradients crossing the Sierra Nevada. On the Union Pacific there are about one hundred stations in all; and on the Central Pacific forty-two. Yet the country passed through is so unproductive, so unfit for any large population, that there will never be anything like so much local trade developed on this line as there will be on the southern Pacific Railroad which will pass through Kansas and other highly productive regions, entering California to the south; this line is also much less likely to be checked by snow in winter.

"I found all the railway officials I had occasion to address very civil and obliging. On American railroads, on account of no uniform being worn, strangers are frequently at a loss who to speak to, as one can seldom tell who is an official. In this respect some slight concession to public convenience has been made on this road, and conductors and some others have their name in small letters on the front of their caps. One hundred pounds of baggage is allowed for every passenger, and this does not include what he may take in the car with him. A portmanteau, rug, &c., may be easily taken in the car. But all over 100 lb. is charged extra, and the present rate is 28c. per pound. As it is even very dear to send baggage round by Aspinwall, passengers had better carry as little as possible."

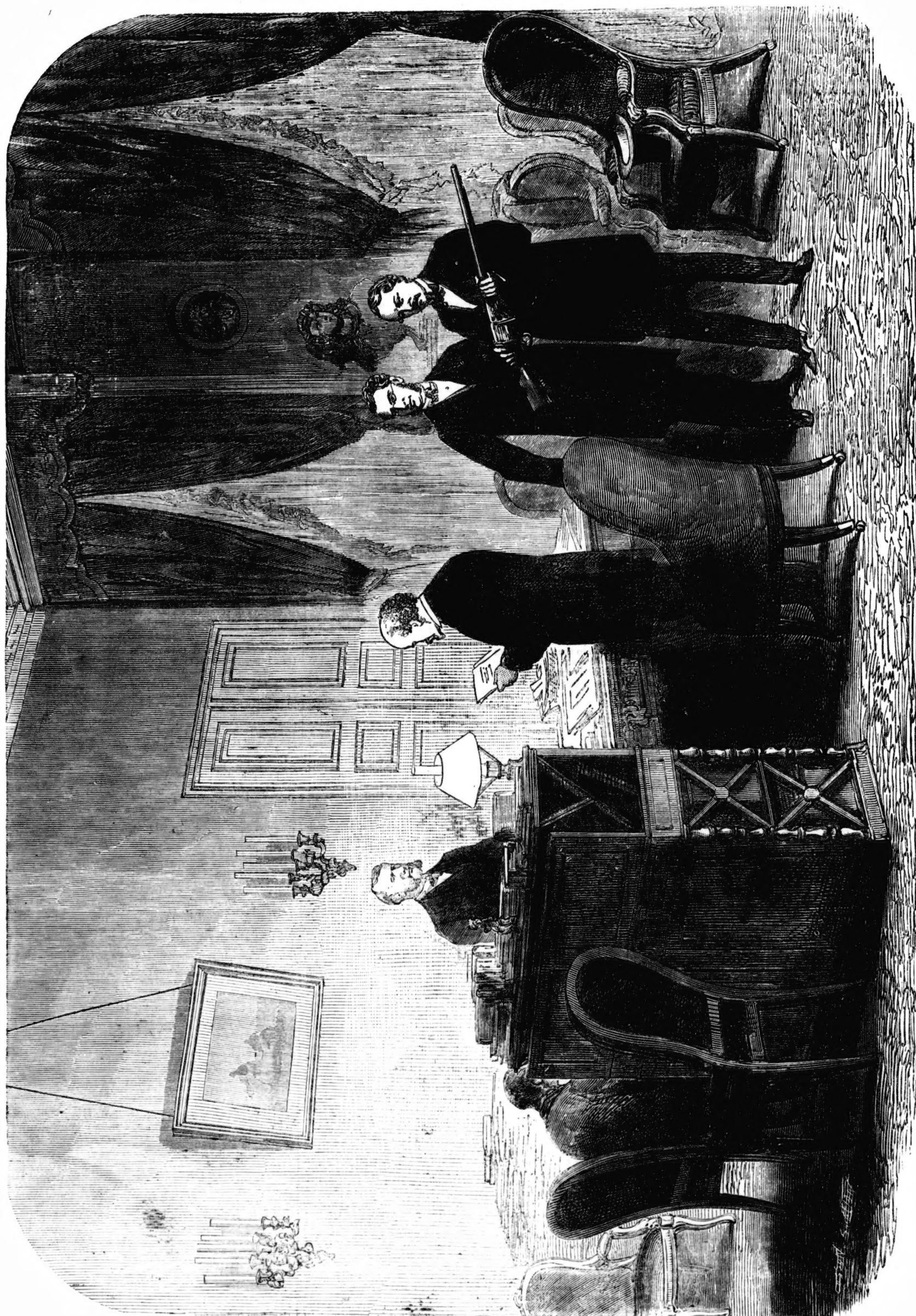
THE FIRST NOTE OF REVOLUTION.

THE Engraving which appears on another page represents faithfully enough the present aspect of the situation in Paris. We need not say that it is from a drawing by a French artist, and it illustrates quite a new phase of Parisian life. The failure of the rabble to bring any trustworthy or earnest adherents to the attempt at constructing a barricade, the absence of the men who could alone make a revolution possible, and the general determination to abide the issue of the new order of things, indicate that, whatever changes may take place, the people have had enough of bloodshed and violence, and will not easily forget how reforms effected by such means have to be paid for afterwards by fresh bondage. Just now, too, the industrial condition of Paris is not such as to add the goad of hunger and misery to that of political excitement. The workman can keep his home together and has begun to reap the advantages of some intelligent acquaintance with domestic as well as with political economy. He is scarcely likely to be the tool either of professional agitators or unscrupulous leaders while he sees that the only changes that will be for his benefit are likely to come about without his falling a victim in the process. There may be a few wild Democrats, who, remembering the legends of the old Revolution, dream of barricades of omnibuses across the great open spaces that have replaced the narrow causeways, or of piles of stones for missiles where the frozen snow lies upon pavements of smooth asphalt; but they are evil counsellors, and their advice is unheeded. They may rave themselves hoarse, and use all the fierce expletives in their vocabulary; but the chasseur speaks more to the purpose; while stronger argument than even the chasseur, better restraint than the power of all the absolute Governments in the world, is the quiet sense of the workman that no real good can come of such rash and ill-regulated demonstrations, and that there is an accumulating silent force of which he may form a part even while he sits with his children on his knees—the force of a whole nation that says "we will," and so teaches Governments which make garrisons their arguments that they must not lag behind their age.

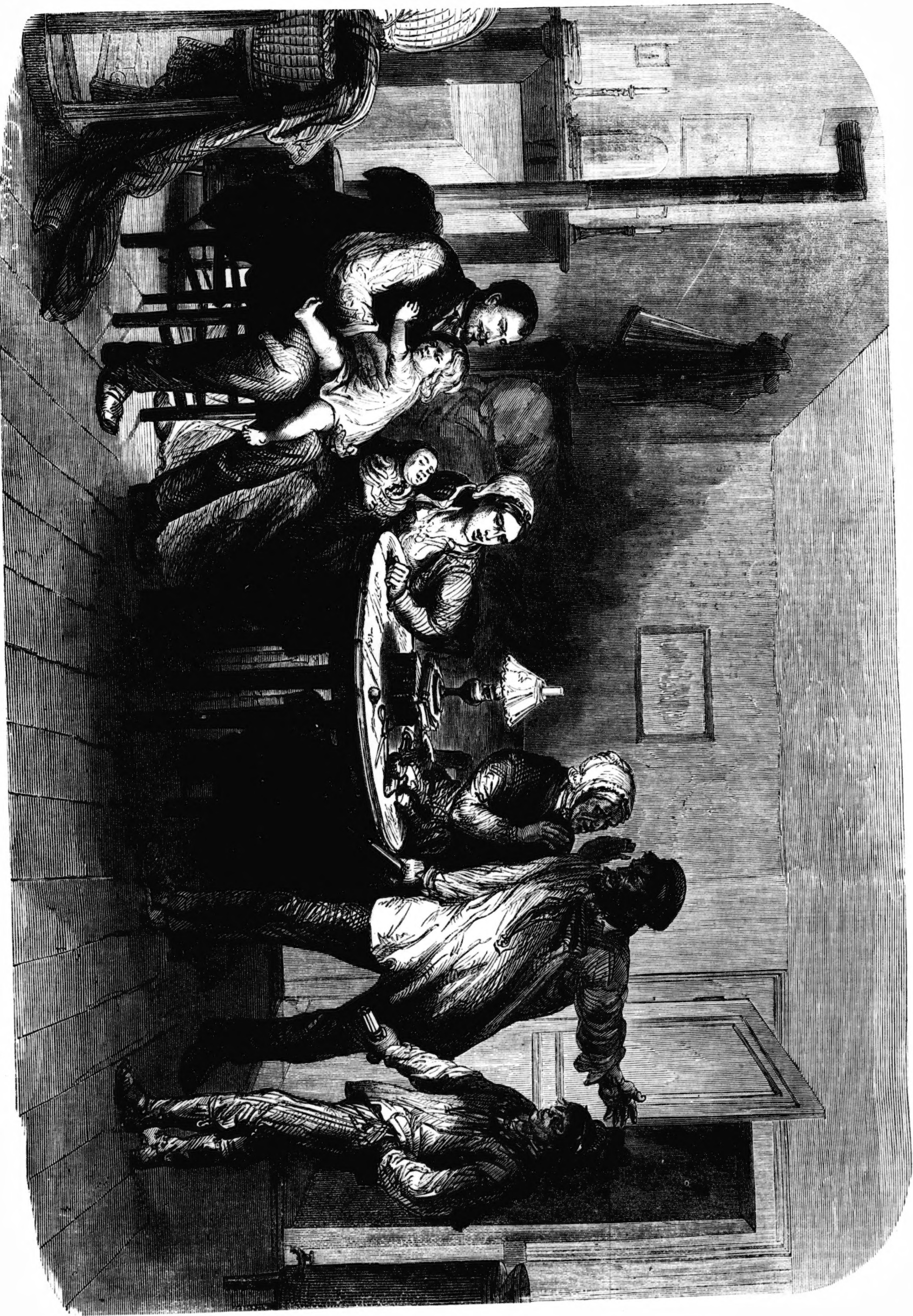
THE SAN DONATO GALLERY.—The sale of this well-known collection (Prince Anatole de Demidoff's) commenced on Monday in Paris. The business of the first day was considered as comparatively unimportant, the modern pictures leading the way, and being appointed to occupy two days. The prices, on the whole, ran high, and the biddings were so rapid that the proceedings did not last two hours. The following are some of the highest sums given:—"Le Portrait Parlant," Schlesinger, 5000fr.; "La Petite Soeur," same, 5200fr.; "Une Foire aux Bestiaux," Demarne, 4600fr.; "Foire de Makaroff," same, 5600fr.; "Un Canal," same, 10,000fr.; "La Sortie des Bestiaux," same, 16,500fr.; "Le Retour des Bestiaux," same, 20,000fr.; "Le Lac de Garde," Cabat, 9800fr.; "Charles Quint au Convent du Saint Just," Eugène Delacroix, 5200fr.; "Une Fantaisie aux Maroc," same, 13,900fr.; "Passage d'une Gue au Maroc," same, 14,800fr.; "Christophe Colomb Rapportant les Richesses Conquises au Nouveau Monde," same, 30,000fr.; "Christophe Colomb au Convent de Sainte Marie de Rabida," same, 38,000fr.; "Mosquée dans la Basse Egypte," Marihat, 23,000fr.; "La Mort de Pousin," Granet, 33,000fr.; "Henri IV. et l'Ambassadeur d'Espagne," Bonington, 38,000fr. This last is the small picture so well known from the engraving, the King being represented on his knees serving as horse to his son, and the other children playing around, just as the grave diplomatist enters. It is a charming picture, but then the price is extreme. As a curious contrast to the large amount given for this picture, we may mention that the full-length portrait of Peter the Great, painted in Holland from life by Volterres in 1700, when the Czar was twenty-eight years of age, and exceedingly well executed, only brought 170fr., not the price of the massive frame. The total of the day's sale was 356,519fr. Mr. Eaton, M.P., bought, on Tuesday, Delacroix's picture "La Mort de Lady Jane Grey," for 110,000fr.

WOMEN'S WORST DISABILITIES.—Alderman Cowen, the other day, presented to the House of Commons a petition from Newcastle-on-Tyne "to remove the disabilities of women." It is to be wished the House of Commons could. Women are subject to disabilities other than political; and what a blessing it would be for them, and those who are charged with them, especially for men of moderate circumstances in the higher and middle classes, if Parliament could remove those! The Pope is often ridiculed for his continual use of an expression declaring disability in the sense of inability; want of power to do a thing. But women in general (not you, sweet readers!) are in the habit, much more frequently than his Holiness is, of saying *non possumus*. "I can't take exercise." "I can't touch that horrid medicine." "I can't go about in these old things." "I can't dress under such a year." "I can't do without a carriage." "I can't live any longer in this house." "I can't manage without so many servants." "I can't eat this." "I can't drink that." "I can't do" anything whatever that implies the least degree of self command. Unhappily, no legislation can relieve women of their most grievous disabilities; those which all come under the general head of disability to act in any way against the bidding of their unreasoning inclinations. If it could, and the House of Commons would pass an Act to abolish all those female disabilities, poor Paterfamilias would immediately have the pleasure of seeing his wife and daughters habitually independent of cabs, walking to the theatres, and to evening parties, in sensible short dresses and mud-proof goloshes of indiarubber.—Punch.

RELIEF OF THE POOR IN LONDON.—A deputation consisting of representatives of the city of London and Holborn Unions, Paddington, and Lambeth, and one or two other gentlemen, waited upon Mr. Goschen, on Monday, to ask for information on various points connected with the Minute on Charitable Relief issued some time since by the President of the Poor-Law Board. Among other information, they wished to have definitions of some of the phrases used in the minute, such as "actual destitution," and "minimum" and "adequate" relief. Mr. Goschen said that as precise questions of law had been asked on legal points he should not give imprecise answers, as the mere misplacing of a word might lead to a mistake; but should prefer to convey his answers by letter. He was glad to state that in several parishes the guardians were working on the basis of the minute, and were acting in conjunction with the administrators of charitable relief. With respect to the amount of "adequate relief," he could not help saying the term did not seem so hard to understand. The term might be taken to mean not so little as the people would starve upon if they got no other relief elsewhere. Guardians should give sufficient. Mr. Goschen, on Tuesday, received a deputation, headed by the Earl of Lichfield, representing a Society for Organising Charitable Relief and Repressing Mendicancy. Lord Lichfield asked for the moral co-operation of the board in bringing about harmonious action between charitable agencies and the parochial authorities. The right hon. gentleman reminded the deputation that his minute of November had been more courteously received by the guardians than by the charitable bodies, for the former published lists of those relieved, which the latter often did not. He thought that some great scheme of organisation must be adopted before any good results could be gained. Amongst the religious denominations there might be more concert; and, if increased efforts were appointed to investigate cases, it would prove very advantageous.



THE RECENT DISTURBANCES IN PARIS. MM. OLLIVIER AND CHEVANDIER DE VALDROME AT THE PREFECTURE OF POLICE. — (SEE PAGE 141.)



PARISIAN WORKMEN: THE FIRST NOTE OF REVOLUTION.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 367.

THE SECOND GREAT QUESTION OF THE SESSION.

THE hero of the past week was the Right Hon. William Edward Forster, the member for Bradford and "Vice-President of the Committee of Privy Counsellors for Education"—that is, "the Standing Committee" told off from the general body of Privy Counsellors to attend to the education of her Majesty's subjects. The president of this Committee is Earl De Grey and Ripon; the vice-president, Mr. Forster. On Thursday, the 17th, Mr. Forster moved for leave to bring in his education bill; and, in a speech some two hours long, unfolded his great scheme. This measure is as important as Mr. Gladstone's Irish Land Bill, will occupy as much time, and be as sharply criticised. The measure presents many salient points of attack, and several members are already getting, or have got, their guns into position for the assault; notably Professor Fawcett, who, in a long and able letter in the *Times* of Monday, unmasked, as we may say, his battery. But the discussions on this measure will, we may confidently foretell, not be so warm as those on the Irish Land Bill: for this reason, the scheme touches neither Ireland nor Scotland, and both the Irish and Scotch are generally more ardent than the English. There is, though, this difference between the Irish and the Scotch—the Scotch do not take fire readily, but when they do ignite the fire is hot and does not soon expire; whereas the anger of an Irishman blazes up in a moment, flares up very high, but soon burns down and goes out. Like flaming straw, says one, is an Irishman's anger; like ignited anthracite coal is that of the Scot. The clauses in the education bill which will be most earnestly discussed are these two:—1, the clause which permits but does not compel the managers of schools to enforce the attendance of all children at some school; 2, the clause which permits the said managers to enforce the teaching of dogmatic theology in schools. On this latter clause we may expect the discussion to be warm, as all discussions upon theological matters generally are. This is what is called "the religious difficulty." This term, though, is quite erroneous. The difficulty is not religious, but dogmatic. Nobody wishes to exclude from schools religious teaching, but many strongly object to dogmatic instruction. If our readers wish to understand this question they must keep this distinction in their minds. Clerical people tell us that these two are one and the same. But this is not true. They are diverse, and often opposed. Take one proof. People rarely quarrel about religion proper, as it was taught by the Great Teacher; but theologians of all sects have been quarrelling ever since the first dogmatic system was elaborated and launched into the world. It has always been our ambition to throw all the light we can upon the subjects which come before Parliament. Let our readers, then, get clearly to understand this distinction, for, this done, they will understand much more.

MR. FORSTER'S HISTORY.

And now a few lines about the hero of the week. Have we ever given Mr. Forster's history? We are not sure. But, no matter. If we have, it was a long time ago, when no one expected to see him in the high position which he now occupies. Mr. W. E. Forster is the only son of Mr. William Forster, who was for fifty years a minister of the Society of Friends, and died in Tennessee, when he was on an anti-slavery mission there. We once read somewhere a memoir of this good man; his history, though, is all dim to us now. But this we know. He was one of that noble band of heroes which the Society of Friends has given to the world, who by their patient sufferings, their unflinching zeal, their heroic fortitude, their untiring labours in the cause of philanthropy, their never-failing protest against bigotry and tyranny, and all the innumerable wrongs which the strong have inflicted upon the weak, have done more than any church, sect, or society that ever appeared in the world to mitigate the sufferings and enlarge the liberties of mankind. Mr. Forster, though the son of a Quaker, is not himself a member of the society. He is a member of the Church of England—of the Broad Church party therein, one would say; for his sympathies are large; and, moreover, he married the daughter of the Rev. Dr. Arnold, who some say was the founder of the Broad Church. That great and good man, of whom it was said "he dwelt in light," and what perhaps is still better, "he loved his family as if he had no friends, his friends as if he had no family, his country as if he had neither family nor friends." Though Mr. Forster is not a Quaker, there are traceable in him the results of his Quaker education. We see them in his ardent desire to have the people educated; the humane manner in which he treats his factory people; the calm equanimity, the patient tolerance of objection which he displays as a leader, and by means of which he not only always—though he is by no means a fascinating speaker—arrests and holds the attention of the House, but keeps discussions which he has to lead clear of all party bitterness. But, though Mr. Forster is what we may call an amiable man, he is not weak, as amiable people often are. On the contrary, his intellect is singularly strong, vigorous, and clear, and he can reason closely. But he, like all men, makes mistakes. To permit dogmatic teaching in State-endowed schools is a serious error. Why should we attempt to force upon the minds of children dogmatic formulas and confessions of faith?—swathe them round and round with theological swaddling bands, which in after life become to them Nessus shirts, which have to be painfully picked off, or else prevent all spiritual and intellectual growth? This is a grievous mistake. Our opinion, though, is that Mr. Forster himself does not like this part of his bill. He, if he had been free to act, would have had it otherwise. It is hardly possible to conceive that the son of a Quaker, the son-in-law of Dr. Arnold, can approve of it; clerical pressure, we suspect, has been put upon him. He would fain have no theological teaching in our schools; but, like Cromwell, he finds the sons of Zeruiah too hard for him.

HIS SPEECH.

Mr. Forster's speech was, as we have said, about two hours long. It was not, though, too long, for he had a great deal of ground to travel over. The speech may have been even more than two hours long, for so interesting was the subject, so clearly did Mr. Forster unfold his scheme, that whilst he was speaking we took no note of time, not even to mark its flight; nor did anyone else that we observed, for the attention of the House during all that long space was close and unbroken. We have often asked ourselves why it is that a sermon, if it be half an hour long, wears its hearers, whilst in the Houses of Parliament men will, with no show of weariness, listen to a speech four or even six times as long. There is to this question but one answer. At church the preachers talk about things in which the people feel little interest; in Parliament our great speakers discuss subjects in which we are all deeply interested. There was a time when the people of England listened to sermons an hour long with avidity—nay, when the sand in the hour-glass, which stood on the pulpit-desk, had run out, the congregation would cry "Turn it again, master." Whence this difference? The answer is prompt. The old Puritan theology was then all alive, and men never tired of hearing it discussed. Now it is as dead as spent ashes. Would that our preachers could be brought to think of this! The members of the House listened to Mr. Forster because they are profoundly interested in this education question, and because Mr. Forster had to unfold a scheme intended to solve it. Then, it must be recollected that many of the members had formed strong opinions on this subject—had their own pet schemes—and, of course, were anxious to learn whether they were in harmony with the Government plan or opposed to it.

THE LISTENERS.

There was Mr. Dixon, Birmingham's member, chairman of the National Education League, which, as if to overawe the Vice-President, published in the *Times* of Friday more than ten columns of its subscribers. Pity that the list was not published on Thursday morning, before Mr. Forster had pronounced. Such a formidable document might have scared the right hon. gentleman

out of some of his notions. Friday was a day after the fair. Mr. Dixon, we may be sure, did not lose a word of the Vice-President's speech. Mr. Birley, too, would listen with devout attention. Mr. Birley is the Manchester minority member; for thus he must be styled, albeit he was at the head of the poll, inasmuch as he would not have been returned but for the minority clause in the new Act. But, which is more to the purpose, Mr. Birley presides over the National Education Union. The League aims really at national education—the Union at denominational. The League would have no sectarian teaching; the first principle of the Union is that religion—i.e., dogmatism—shall be taught in every school. These two gentlemen sit on opposite sides of the House. The scheme of the Government was not in accordance with that of either the League or the Union, but it was more pleasant to Mr. Birley and his clerical supporters than to Mr. Dixon and his vast array of laymen—a fact which Mr. Forster will have to ponder with mortification; as also this other, clearly discernible, that, whilst he has all the Bishops and nineteen twentieths of the clergy, the free cultured mind of England clearly goes with the League. Lord Robert Montagu, some one observes, is taking notes. He once held the office which Mr. Forster holds, and, moreover, has a notion quite unique, which at least shows that he has an original mind. He believes that there is little or no educational destitution in the land. Nay, he has proved it by uncontrovertible statistics, over and over again, to his own entire satisfaction. Lord Robert is a very industrious, and even hard-working man. At collecting materials there is nobody more assiduous, and if he did not know how to build with them what a statesman he would be! Very earnest is Lord Robert—as we can see—as he sits on the front Opposition bench, leaning forward, with pen in hand, paper on knee, and his eyes fixed upon the Vice-President, his handsome, amiable face gleaming the while in the white light from above like a star. There are few handsomer, and perhaps no better, men in the House than Lord Robert. Sir John Pakington has for years been great on education; and it is but justice to say that on this subject he has always been ahead of his party. He, we may be sure, is listening; but he shows no signs of special attention. It is not his manner to do so. He sits back, with his hat well on his head, his legs stretched out, and his arms across his breast—as Palmerston used to do, and as Disraeli and other statesmen do now—except, though, Gladstone, the greatest of statesmen. He never puts on this affected indifference—this cold, *nil admirari* demeanour. In all that goes on, here or elsewhere, he takes a hearty human interest, and does not care to conceal it. Gladstone's face displayed no keen interest, but a calm satisfaction, which seemed to say, "My Vice-President is doing his work well." It was not likely that he would listen with that intense earnestness displayed by others; for you see, readers, he knew all about this scheme—had, indeed, been consulted about it, and discussed it in the Cabinet. Nor could we expect to see him evince much anxiety lest it should not be presented to the House in a satisfactory manner, as he well knew that it was in safe hands.

HOW MR. FORSTER SPEAKS.

But it is time that we said something about Mr. Forster as a speaker. Our Vice-President of the Council has few, if any, of the extrinsic attributes of an orator. His outward appearance and manner do not prepossess his hearers in his favour, nor give any force to his speaking. Though action has so much to do in giving effect to oratory, it is clear that Mr. Forster has neither practised nor studied it, as Roebuck and Newdegate have done, with effect, though in their cases, as in others, the study of manner has led to mannerism. Mr. Forster has a good voice, but he does not use it with the skill of an orator; nor does he care to polish his language or point his sentences. It may, indeed, be doubted whether he ever thinks beforehand of the words in which he shall clothe his thoughts. Consequently, though he is naturally fluent of speech, his style is somewhat rugged. How, then, is it that, with all these disqualifications and drawbacks, he can, as he always does, command the attention of the House? The only answer is simply because the House has come to know that whenever he rises he has something worth hearing to say, and can say it plainly and clearly, albeit not elegantly nor with oratorical power. Indeed, many of the older members like Mr. Forster's style of talking. One of them, a Conservative, after hearing Mr. Forster's speech, said in our hearing, "I like to listen to Forster, because there is no nonsense about him." We have written thus much about Mr. Forster and his education speech because the subject is important, and because the speaker upon it is a remarkable man.

MR. MONK'S ONE CHICK.

Mr. Charles James Monk is the son of a Bishop, the late Right Rev. Dr. Monk, Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, and he speaks with all the suavity which one would expect from a Bishop's son. He does not often come to the front in great debates, but takes up small matters—probably because he is sensible that great questions are "aboon his might." Would that all our members were, in this respect, like Mr. Charles James Monk! His pet subject for several years past has been the political disabilities of revenue officers. Some of these disabilities, if we remember rightly, he did actually get removed in 1868, but some remain; and evidently he has determined not to rest until the last fetter be knocked off these suffering people. On Tuesday he called the attention of the House to this subject, and moved for a Committee to consider, and if possible to remove, the remaining disabilities. This, as we have said, is at present his pet subject; and, having incubated this one egg all the vacation, on Tuesday he cracked the shell and freed the bird, and commended it to the care of the head of her Majesty's Government. But, unluckily, it found no favour with that right hon. gentleman. On the contrary, Mr. Gladstone, though not given to jocosity, poked fun at it, and refused to have anything to do with the skinny, ungainly fowl. "If," said he, in effect, "we had little to do, we might attend to the matter; but our hands are full, our shoulders are overburdened. We have great questions to consider, and have no time for such petty concerns." And so the hon. member had, with evident chagrin, to withdraw his motion.

SIR GEORGE JENKINSON'S JOKE.

During the debate on Mr. Monk's motion a remarkable event happened. Sir George Jenkinson was delivered of a joke—and a passably good joke, too; nay, two jokes. Mr. Gladstone, in his speech, likened himself, if he had yielded to Mr. Monk's request, to the unjust Judge in the parable, who, though his judgment was not convinced, out of sheer weariness acceded to the importunate demands made upon him. Whereupon Sir George "regretted that the right hon. gentlemen should have likened himself to the unjust Judge. No one else would have done so, although the likeness may be true." That is not bad. But this is better:—"The right hon. gentleman has asked for rest; but the same authority which told them about the unjust Judge had also said, 'there is no rest for the wicked.'" A hit, a very palpable hit. But think of this from Sir George! We should have as soon expected the figure-head of a ship—of which we are always reminded when we see the hon. Baronet—to make a joke as Sir George Jenkinson.

THE DEATH IS ANNOUNCED OF LORD BARCAPLE, one of the Scotch Lords of Session. He was sixty-one years of age, and had discharged the duties of a Judge nearly eight years.

THE WAR OFFICE.—Mr. Cardwell's bill for making further provision for the management at the War Office has been issued. It will enable the Secretary of State to appoint during pleasure an officer to be styled the Clerk of the Ordnance, and such officer shall be capable of being elected to, and of sitting and voting in, the House of Commons; also, an officer to be styled the Financial Secretary of the War Office, and such officer shall, by virtue of such appointment, be disqualified from being elected to or voting in the House of Commons. There shall be performed by these officers such duties in relation to the War Office as her Majesty may, by order in Council, from time to time assign to them, and there shall be paid to them, out of moneys provided by Parliament, such salaries as shall be regulated by the Treasury.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

LAW REFORMS.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR brought in the Judges' Jurisdiction Bill, one of the measures of judicature promised in the Speech from the Throne at the opening of the Session. The object of the bill was to enable the Judge of any court at Westminster Hall, at the request of the Chief Justices or the Lord Chief Baron, to sit in any court with the same power and jurisdiction as in his own; next, to enable the Judges to sit in banco in two divisions; and also to enable any two courts to sit together at nisi prius in London and Westminster. This had become necessary in order to impart strength to the Queen's Bench, which, since the death of Mr. Justice Hayes, had been overwhelmed with work. The noble and learned Lord then stated the leading provisions of two other measures which were ready for introduction, both of which were founded upon the recommendations of the Judicature Commission and formed part of the measures glanced at in the Queen's Speech. One object of these, he remarked, was the fusion of law and equity, and, to accomplish this, a Supreme Court would, in the first instance, be created by bringing together in one court all the Judges of law and equity. It was proposed that there should be divisions of this court, one of which would consist of the common law Judges, who would be subdivided into three, each consisting of five Judges. Another division would be made of the Vice-Chancellors and the Chief Judge in Bankruptcy. A third division would comprise the Judges of the Probate and Admiralty Courts and the two common law Judges who were not included in the other divisions. The Appellate Court would consist of the Lord Chancellor and the Master of the Rolls, four permanent Judges, and three of the court of the first instance. And it was further proposed to abolish the Home Circuit, but he did not intend to interfere with the appellate jurisdiction of the House of Lords.

LORD CAIRNS, who criticised certain portions of the proposed changes, nevertheless admitted that the general scheme would be a great improvement in the administration of the law.

The discussion was continued by Lords ROMILLY and REDESDALE, and the bill was read the first time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR SERVICES.

MR. HOLMES brought under the notice of the House the diplomatic and consular services, which he described as both inefficient and extravagant, and contended from the facts he adduced, which led him to this conclusion, that it was the bounden duty of the House of Commons to take action for the purpose of putting this branch of the public service on a proper footing. Finally, he submitted a resolution declaring that the expenditure on account of the consular service might be reduced, and that it was expedient for the promotion of efficiency and economy to transfer the control of the department from the Foreign Office to the Board of Trade.

MR. R. SHAW pronounced the motion premature, seeing that the House had only on Monday last agreed to appoint a Committee to inquire into the subject.

MR. OTWAY, on behalf of the Government, took the same line of opposition to the proposal. The desire of the Government was that the Committee should be fairly and impartially constituted, and that the inquiry should be a real and searching one.

After a few words from Mr. S. BEAUMONT and Mr. S. KINNAIRD, the motion was withdrawn.

METROPOLITAN POOR RATES.

MR. GOSCHEN, in asking leave to introduce a bill to provide for the equal distribution over the metropolis of a further portion of the charge for poor relief, stated that the operation of Mr. Gathorne Hardy's bill of two years ago had been most beneficial in its results, and that the object of the present measure was to extend the application of the principle of that bill. The bill would first place the charge for the inmates of metropolitan workhouses upon the common fund, at the rate of 3s. 6d. a head per week, upon condition that the unions complied with the general regulations and requirements of the law. Under the existing law, the salaries of the parish officials were placed upon the common fund, but not their rations; hereafter, however, if his bill became law, the rations also would be provided for from that source. The effect of the proposed arrangement would be to distribute an entire half of the relief of the London poor as a common charge over the metropolis, and in this way he anticipated that the pressure upon the poorer parishes would be considerably eased.

After a short discussion, leave was given to bring in the bill, which was afterwards read the first time.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House sat for a few minutes only, and nothing but some private business was done.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

REGULATION OF MINES.

MR. SECRETARY BRUCE, in moving the second reading of the Mines Regulation and Inspection Bill, stated that its object was to consolidate the existing Acts relating to the management of mines, and to embody the principal amendments in the law recommended by a Select Committee. Referring to past legislation on the subject, he pointed out that its effect had been gradually to diminish the annual sacrifice of human life caused by colliery accidents. Thus, whilst in 1850 the death rate was one for every 67,000 tons of coal raised, from 1864 to 1868 it was one for every 93,000 tons, and for 1868 one for every 103,934 tons. At present there were upwards of 350,000 miners engaged in the collieries, who raised 105 million tons of coals per annum; but a large proportion of these men were totally uneducated, and 46 per cent of the young could neither write nor read. In his judgment, then, the best means of diminishing the number of accidents would be the provision of an ample supply of fresh air, its careful distribution over the mine, and the better education of the miners themselves. The bill would also deal with the employment of children. It was proposed by the bill to exclude all children under twelve years of age from employment in collieries, whilst, under the bill for establishing public elementary schools, they would be secured useful instruction. Another provision was that no young person above twelve and below sixteen years old should be employed underground for more than twelve hours a day, and that out of that time an hour and a half should be set apart for meals and rest. As to boys employed on the mine, but not underground, it was proposed that the Workshops Regulation Act should apply to them. The effect of this would be altogether to prevent the employment of women as well as of any children otherwise than during the hours stipulated by that Act. With reference to the portion of the bill which related to the question of safety, provision was made for supplying a certain amount of air and ventilation to every coal and ironstone mine; and in case of accident the burden of proof that the supply of air and the distribution of ventilation was sufficient would rest upon the owners. Coming to the important question of inspection, Mr. Bruce observed that the measure did not propose to make any alteration in the existing system, nor, indeed, to add considerably to the number of inspectors, which now amounted to six. For the purposes of enforcing the provisions of the bill, however, the penalties imposed under the present law would be increased.

After a long discussion, the second reading was agreed to and the bill ordered to be committed on Friday, March 18.

LOCAL TAXATION.

MR. GOSCHEN moved the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire and report whether it be expedient that the charges now imposed on the occupiers of rateable property for various local purposes should be divided between the owners and occupiers, and what changes in the constitution of the local bodies now administering rates should follow such division. In making this proposal the right hon. gentleman observed that, by a measure which the Government contemplated bringing in, the present system of rating would be extended to subject matter which, in their opinion, was *pari materia*; but he wished it to be understood that they did not mean that it should extend to the rating of personal property. Local taxation and administration were so intimately connected that it was difficult to touch one without affecting the other; and with a view to placing the system on a satisfactory footing, the Committee would inquire whether there were certain kinds of other property now exempt from taxation which ought not to be exempted. There were also the questions of collection, the person from whom the rates should be collected, the bodies who were to administer them, and was it expedient that the burden of local rates should be divided between the owners and occupiers.

SIR M. LOPES contended that the division of the rates between owners and occupiers would not touch the question at issue, which was the pressure of rates upon real property, and the exemption of personality from contributing to local burdens. So thinking, he moved as an amendment that it would be desirable to postpone the appointment of the Select Committee until the Government had announced their promised measure for dealing with the whole of the incidence of rating.

After some discussion the amendment was withdrawn and the Committee agreed to.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House was occupied for a short time in discussing Lord Chelmsford's Sunday Trading Bill, which stood for second reading, and is nearly identical with the measure on the same subject which he had passed through Committee in 1866. The Bishops of LONDON and GLOUCESTER and BRISTOL spoke in favour of the measure, and Lord MORLEY assented to it in that stage on behalf of the Government; but the Duke of SOMERSET saw little chance of its passing, and doubted of its being of any other use than to

give their Lordships, who had little to do at present, something to talk about.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

RIFLES FOR THE VOLUNTEERS.

The SECRETARY FOR WAR, replying to an inquiry of Mr. Roden, stated that it was not intended to arm the volunteers with breech-loading rifles until the authorities had determined what precise character of weapon should be adopted; and that for this reason the volunteers themselves were favourable to the postponement.

ENDOWED SCHOOLS.

Mr. W. E. FORSTER, replying to a question put by Sir J. Pakington, said that the Government had decided not to introduce during the present Session the second part of the Endowed Schools Bill of last year, considering that they would be in a better position to consider the question when they had received all the schemes sent in under the Act of last year by the governing bodies of endowed schools.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

Mr. LEFFEVRE told Mr. Hanbury-Tracy that no bill would be proposed this Session by Ministers to modify the Act known as "Lord Campbell's," relating to compensation for accidents.

NEW BILLS.

Leave was obtained by Mr. Cross to bring in a bill to render void the sale of the next presentation to a benefice.

The following bills were brought in, and read the first time:—Bill to Facilitate the Execution and Acknowledgment of Deeds by Married Women (Mr. Dodds); Bill to Amend the Law relating to the Election and Office of Coroners (Mr. Goldney); Bill to Amend the Adulteration of Food or Drink Act of 1860 (Mr. Muntz); and Bill for the Appointment of a Public Prosecutor and the more effectual Prosecution of Indictable Offences (Mr. Eykyn). The Dissolved Districts and Unions Bill was read the third time and passed.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

LIFE ASSURANCE.

Mr. S. CAVE moved the second reading of the Life Assurance Companies Bill, and in the course of his speech observed that extraordinary mortality never ruined any insurance office, and that even the Indian mutiny had not exercised any serious effect upon such institutions. What, however, had been ruinous was the practice of amalgamating offices and buying up the business of insolvent companies. One office now in existence had in this way absorbed not less than thirty-five others, whilst the Albert had carried down twenty-four in its fall; and many others had existed upon lapsed policies and the employment of paid canvassers at high rates of commission. The various offices were trustees to the extent of £400,000,000 for the most helpless classes of the community; for the ignorance of the public with regard to insurance was so proverbial that it was a common saying among agents that it was not the goodness of an office, but the energy of its agents that brought it business. These causes had led to the decay of public confidence in these institutions; and he held that in dealing with the question perfect freedom and publicity should be the motto of legislation. To carry out this principle the bill provided that every assurance company should make a uniform statement of its affairs every year, as prescribed in the schedule to the bill, to be supplemented by an actuarial report drawn up for longer periods, in order to enable people to compare one office with another, and so to judge of the insolvency of either. Policy-holders might also make an application to the Court of Chancery for a winding-up order, should the assets of a company be insufficient to meet its liabilities. Offices which did business other than life assurance would be required to create and maintain a special life fund, upon which the other business should have no claim whatever. In reference to winding up, also, the Court of Chancery would be allowed to stay proceedings, in the case of proprietary companies, that they might have time given them to call up their outstanding capital. Further provision was made for applying a certain amount of elasticity to suit the peculiar circumstances of each office; also for a uniform system of accounts, to which he attached very great importance.

Mr. LEFFEVRE, speaking on behalf of the Government, had great pleasure in expressing the assent of the Board of Trade to the bill so ably and earnestly advocated and explained by his right hon. friend.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER readily granted that the bill reflected credit upon its promoter, who had done great service by introducing it; but, carefully as it was prepared, or might be amended hereafter, he could not regard it as an adequate remedy for the mischiefs which it dealt with. It struck him whether it might not be the duty of the Government to come forward themselves, and offer to the public, on terms sufficiently high to prevent their coming into competition with good companies, that absolute security which they, and they alone, had it in their power to give for insurances. Already they granted Government annuities; and surely they could do the converse, and grant a sum of money in consideration of an annuity. Would it not be wise, then, to enable the Government to give that amount of security upon terms sufficiently high to prevent their entering into unfair and unreasonable competition with existing companies, and by so doing supply that want of absolute security which was now most justly complained of, and which he did not see could be supplied in any other way.

The second reading was agreed to, and Committee ordered for Wednesday next.

ATTORNEYS' AND SOLICITORS' REMUNERATION BILL.

The ATTORNEYS' and SOLICITORS' Remuneration Bill was read the second time, on the motion of Mr. Rathbone, who explained its object to be to enable solicitors and clients to make bargains with each other, and by that means facilitate investments by working men in real property. One of the clauses would provide for the remuneration of legal trustees.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Their Lordships sat only about half an hour, in the course of which time the Jurisdiction of Judges Bill was read the second time, and The Marquis of BATH gave notice that on Tuesday, March 1, he should move for copies of the correspondence between Mr. Madden and the Irish Government.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PILOTAGE BILL.

Mr. SHAW-LEFFEVRE moved the second reading of this bill, which was agreed to. On the motion of the hon. gentleman the bill was then referred to a Select Committee, on the understanding that the principle should be accepted, leaving the Committee the power of hearing evidence and of considering as to how that principle was to be applied.

The War Office Bill was read the second time; and the Merchant Shipping Bill was likewise read the second time, and then referred to a Select Committee.

SCOTCH LAND BILL.

The LORD ADVOCATE obtained leave to introduce a bill the object of which was to abolish the feudal and burghage tenure, and to amend the law relating to land rights in Scotland. The bill was to give an inexpensive title to land now held under the feudal tenure, without interfering with the interests of anyone upon those lands. It would also authorise a son to succeed to his father's estate immediately after his parent's death, instead of waiting three years, as was required under the existing law. It also declared that where there were few duties and money was to be paid for land, that might be split up into parcels for building or other purposes to spread it over the land, so that the superior proprietor might be protected. The bill would also facilitate the transfer of the land and secure the title to it. In 1617 the Scotch Parliament passed an Act securing the proprietor of the land in his holding, provided that he had a bona fide occupation of fourteen years. The bill proposed to reduce it to seven. It also gave power to make deeds valid, notwithstanding any formal defects in them, provided evidence was given of the bona fides of the deed.

On the motion of Mr. OTWAY, the Committee on the Diplomatic and Consular Service was nominated.

FATAL GUN ACCIDENT.—A shocking accident arising from the incautious handling of firearms took place, on Saturday, at a farmhouse near Ormskirk. A farmer named Prescott went with his wife to Liverpool, leaving at home his son William, fourteen years of age, and a daughter named Margaret, aged nine. In the afternoon young Prescott took down a gun, with the intention of going out to shoot small birds. His sister was near the door, and he told her to open it. She was in the act of doing so, having her back towards her brother, when the gun went off, and the girl fell dead on the floor, having been shot through the left lung and heart. Young Prescott was taken into custody.

EXETER CATHEDRAL.—The Dean and Chapter of Exeter Cathedral have just approved plans prepared by Mr. Gilbert Scott for the renovation of the sacred edifice. The work will be commenced with the renovation of the choir and the seating of the choir aisles, the present division of the cathedral by the massive antique screen into two virtually distinct churches being adhered to. The choir has lately been far too small for the congregations. The seating of the side aisles has long been contemplated. The Dean and Chapter have decided that the western façade shall not be touched, as to attempt the renovation of the ancient figures of saints in the niches would be the destruction of the architectural features of the building. The subscription already raised towards meeting the expenses amount to several thousand pounds. The Exeter Diocesan Archaeological Society disapprove Mr. Scott's plans, and have sent a protest to the Dean and Chapter against their adoption. It is contended that the plans wantonly disregard the first principles of ecclesiastical church restoration. The naves and choirs of cathedrals ought, it is said, to be used simultaneously for Divine service—the choirs being set apart for the clergy and the naves for the general congregation, as is the case with the cathedrals of Ely, Lichfield, and Hereford.

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MR. FORSTER'S EDUCATION BILL.

WITH some features of the Government education scheme we frankly confess that we are far from being satisfied, for, as it stands, we think it contains several grave defects. It seems to us that the measure contains in itself elements of possible failure, certainly of incompleteness, and probably of dissension and heart-burning. It seems to have been "framed to pass," and perhaps will pass. It is a compromise between the views of the Birmingham Education League on one side and of the Manchester Education Union on the other. Mr. Forster has evidently striven to please all parties, and will perhaps find that he either pleases none or fails in attaining the object at which he aims. There is too much of the self-contradictory "permissive-compulsion" element in Mr. Forster's measure.

Everything, for instance, depends on the establishment and successful working of the local school boards; and yet it is scarcely possible to conceive that those boards can be established and worked in a satisfactory manner under Mr. Forster's proposals. They will not be universal, to begin with; for where sufficient school accommodation already exists, local boards are not to be deemed necessary; which simply means that in such districts the present denominational system is to continue. Then, where sufficient school accommodation does not exist, town councils in boroughs and vestries in rural parishes are to be called upon to take the initiative in school-building and rate-imposing. But is it reasonable to expect that these bodies, having already shown themselves to be supine in the matter of education, will become specially diligent because an Act of Parliament tells them to be so?

Then, as regards the attendance of children at the schools when these are provided; that is to be compulsory, but it is left to the local boards to apply the compulsion. But will they—or, if constituted as we have supposed, can they—apply such compulsion? The Dissenter will be sure to resist compulsion from the Churchman; the Churchman to kick against compulsion by the Dissenter—if the latter ever be in a position to use it. Neighbours, even, will object to be coerced by neighbours; the man who is zealous for education will become odious to him who is not. And we must not forget that there are—and will be—people who are not zealous for education. If there were none such, compulsion would be unnecessary. In fact, as a contemporary aptly puts it, ignorance "will be ranked on one side and intelligence on the other. The desire of educated persons to combat ignorance will be obliged to take the peculiarly invidious form of proposing to force their next-door neighbours to come to their schools. If the national authority had settled the question once for all, compulsion might be accepted as a necessity. It would be adopted throughout the country, and there would be no distinction in this respect between different districts. But if the question is to be fought out in every district, and the compellers are obliged to come face to face with the compelled, the discussion will be constantly kept open in a most irritating form, and mixed up with all manner of petty local politics. A system of compulsion may be carried one year, and if it is not discreetly carried out, it may be repealed the next. There are many cases of legislation in which people readily submit to regulations known to be impartially imposed upon everybody in the country, and only to be repealed by the highest authority, but in which they will continue to make a prolonged and irrational resistance to partial rules enforced by local magnates. If Parliament decides that no child shall be allowed to grow up in ignorance, the prestige of the Legislature may discourage opposition to a reasonable measure; if it decides simply that every small district shall decide the question for itself, the field will be open for endless battles in detail, in which obstructionists will everywhere have a chance of success, and the experiment be generally tried under the most unfavourable conditions." We wish, therefore, that Mr. Forster could see his way to some other method for both originating the local school boards and for securing the attendance of children in school.

The sectarian difficulty, too, is pretty sure to arise in a new form. Town Councils, under compulsion that is not permissive, may go to work fairly enough;

but as in rural parishes the vestry is mainly, if not solely, as a rule, composed of Churchmen, presided over by the Incumbent, it is easy to perceive that school-boards emanating from these bodies will necessarily assume a Church—that is, a sectarian—hue, and for that reason be obnoxious to Dissenters, save, indeed, in those happy regions where "Dissent does not exist"—to borrow the language of ecclesiastical auctioneers. But, as parishes so blessed are few and far between, it is very evident that there is here a source of strife that will probably be all the more bitter because localised. Clearly, the religious instruction question is not satisfactorily disposed of. Religion may still be taught in the national schools, if the local boards so determine—with this qualification, that no child is to be compelled to receive such instruction if its parents object thereto, and state their objection in writing. But who is to enforce the strict observance of this conscience clause? Is it not likely to be disregarded by a zealous—perhaps a domineering—parson, supported by an obsequious vestry-chosen school board? What chance has poor Hodge against the compulsion brought to bear upon him by such parties, even though said compulsion be not authorised by law?

Altogether, we think Mr. Forster's bill stands much in need of amendment; and though, as we have often said, we feel inclined to sacrifice a good deal in order to secure education for every child in the land, it seems to us that Mr. Forster's bill is a mere halting between two opinions, that the compromise it embodies is a mistake, and that the work had better be done thoroughly while Parliament is about it.

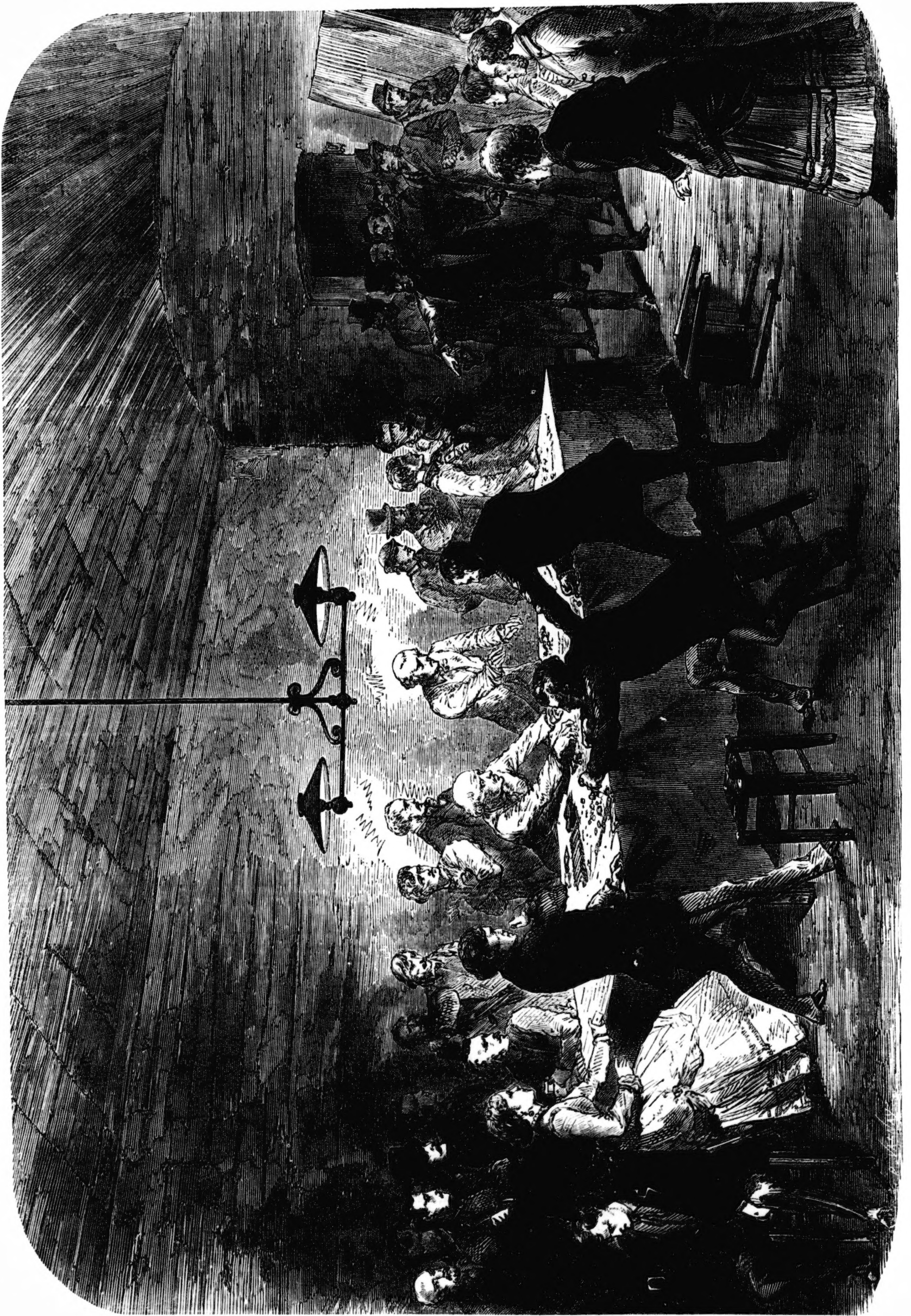
ATTACK ON A PARISIAN GAMING-HOUSE.

IT is long since we have heard of any police raid upon a regular gambling-house in London. The prosecution of the keepers of betting-offices and the landlords of sporting public-houses is the nearest approach that we now make to the enterprises which distinguished the last days of the gambling fraternity once congregated about St. James's-street and some of the hidden haunts that succeeded Crockford's and the Cocoa-Tree. In Paris, too, the law has been too strong for the professed gamblers; and though there, as well as in London, there is still plenty of high play in private salons, where the police cannot enter, there has been no recognised gaming-place for some time past. Within the last few days, however, one has been discovered in the Rue de la Harpe—an historical though not very distinguished locality, celebrated in the annals of the Revolution, and still retaining its ancient name notwithstanding the rebuilding of the French capital.

Several anonymous letters were some time ago addressed to the police authorities denouncing Monsieur X. (French suspects are always Monsieur X.) as the owner of a gaming-house in this street, and some of the unlucky players are said to have revealed the fact of their having lost considerable sums of money; but, from some cause or other, their accounts were so confused that, though a complete surveillance was established, nothing whatever was discovered, and the officers were about to abandon the whole affair as a mystification, when an agent a little more astute or a trifle better informed than the rest brought the intelligence that a great *baccarat* would be held on the following night. The Commissary of Police of the Palais de Justice (M. Berillon) was immediately made acquainted with this report, and was ordered to be in readiness for a night expedition; while M. Bondeville, of the prefecture, at once joined the police-officers with a squad of sergeants-de-ville and several "agents" whose knowledge of the professional blacklegs of the quarter might be serviceable in identifying the prisoners.

At half-past one in the morning M. Berillon took the command of this formidable array and repaired to the Rue de la Harpe. In order not to awaken the suspicions of a broken-down hanger-on of the establishment who had been placed outside as a look out, to give warning of any such polite attention on the part of the authorities, two agents, dressed en bourgeois and accompanied by their wives, went first into the street, which was entirely deserted at that hour; and, taking them to be merely a quiet brace of students with their companions, the sentinel took no particular notice of their approach, until the moment they stood before him, when, before he could make any alarm, he was seized, gagged, and carried bodily away. The police agents and sergeants-de-ville at once ran to the door and entered the café, where a woman-servant, who was only awakened by their sudden appearance, shrieked out "thieves! murder!" and other alarming ejaculations. She was quickly silenced, however, and, having crossed two deserted and empty rooms, M. Berillon and his satellites found themselves in a damp dirty lobby which led at once to the place they sought. On seeing the quality of the visitors who essayed to gain an entrance, two brawny ruffians, specially retained to defend the door and receive the pass-word of the habitués, began to "show fight;" but they were at once knocked down and handcuffed. Some of the party within, having heard this commotion outside, opened the door to see what was amiss, and were petrified to discover that the lobby was filled with the three-cornered hats of the invaders. Several of the company endeavoured to escape, but there was little chance of getting out of the room, which had but lately been used as a cellar, and therefore had no door for exit. In fact, it was only lighted in the day by three narrow holes for ventilation, which were carefully blinded. One of the party made a determined effort to escape by the largest of these apertures, but, only succeeding in getting half-way through, was compelled to implore the aid of the enemy to drag him back. It was a miserable place, with water streaming down the walls, whereon hung several valuable paintings given in payment of their losses by some of the unfortunate victims of the proprietor. The air was foul and stifled, and three coarse smoky lamps alone lighted the scene depicted in our illustration. A rickety table, covered with a coarse, frayed green cloth, stained with dirt and grease, and a few seats, formed all the furniture of this wretched den; and when the police entered a large sum of money lay before the landlord, who performed the part of croupier. This was at once seized by M. Berillon, who proceeded to interrogate the persons present. The greater part of them were members of respectable and even distinguished families—Egyptians, Russians, Italians, and Belgians—the latter mostly students. Others were well-known "legs" and professed gamblers, and these were at once especially charged by the landlord with making *portees*—that is to say, with playing trumps furnished from spare packs of cards by their confederates. A subsequent careful search of the establishment disclosed numbers of these extra packs in which the trumps were prepared for this nefarious trick. The master of this place, in which so many of the young men of the Quartier Latin have been despoiled, will have to answer for his misdeeds; and the breaking up of such a horde of thieves will doubtless be a great benefit to the neighbourhood.

DUCHY OF CORNWALL.—The income of the Duchy of Cornwall in the year 1869 amounted to £75,707. The disbursements include £2622 outlay for improvements; £7941 for superannuation allowances, charities, annuities, property tax, &c.; and £7732 for expenses of management. Sums amounting to £63,587 were paid to the use of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. The income derived from the duchy in the preceding year for the Prince's use was only £55,252; but the balance in hand at the close of 1869 was £6000 more than the balance at the close of 1869.



ATTACK BY THE POLICE ON A GAMBLING-HOUSE IN THE RUE DE LA HARPE, PARIS.

YOUNG PIMBY'S SKATING ADVENTURES.



1. Young Pimby, having a holiday, determines to have a little skating; being of a saving turn of mind, he purchases a secondhand pair of skates, and greases them.—2. After a good breakfast he lights up, and confidently sallies forth.—3. Reaches the ice; but, upon seeing one of the Humane Society's men regarding him very attentively, he loses some of his courage.—4. At length he yields to the persuasion of the putter-on of skates. The fellow, looking out for other customers, screws a gimlet as large as a cork-screw straight into Pimby's heel. The pitying eye of the H. S.'s man is still upon him.—5. He takes to the ice; but while in a state of nervous doubt respecting striking out, he gets run down.—6. Finds it not altogether an easy task to get up again.—7. On his legs once more, he drifts across a slide! 8. Making his way with great difficulty towards a quiet spot to have a little practice, he is horrified to find himself right in the path of the Express Train!—9. He shunts hurriedly—inv-

voluntarily turns round several times—makes frantic efforts to grasp some invisible object—loses his feet, and comes down with an awful crash! 10. Is rescued.—11. With returning consciousness, he finds the H. S.'s man looking at him with a kind of "I-knew-how-it-would-be" expression. He feels hurt, but rewards the man with ten shillings and his skates.—12. Feeling much better (though much bruised) after the bath and brandy, he makes for home.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE BISHOP OF EXETER preached before the Queen and the Royal family, in her Majesty's private chapel at Windsor, on Sunday.

THE LEVEE to be held at St. James's Palace, by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, on behalf of her Majesty, will take place on March 1, not on the 3rd, as previously announced.

LORD CAIRNS has started for Mentone, and intends to remain there till Easter. It is stated that his Lordship is not at all out of health.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF ARGYLL left Inverary on Monday morning for the South, the whole ducal establishment being conveyed by steamer to Wemyss Bay, whence the journey was continued by rail to London. Her Grace the Duchess passed an excellent night on board before starting, and continues to improve in health.

MR. DISRAELI entered the House of Commons shortly before half-past four o'clock on Monday, and remained a short time. On taking his seat he was warmly congratulated. The right hon. gentleman looked pale.

LORD GRANVILLE has this week been confined to his house by an attack of gout.

THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD has honoured Archbishop Lyeurgus with the degree of Doctor of Divinity. The presentation was made by the Regius Professor of Divinity on Saturday afternoon.

LORD HYDE will preside at the 155th anniversary festival of the Welsh Charity, on March 1, at Willis's Rooms.

THE MARQUIS OF HARTINGTON, in reply to a memorial from Liverpool regarding telegraphic delays, states that fresh hands have been put on, and he hopes that, when the atmospheric disturbances have subsided, the office will be equal to the work. An additional wire has been ordered for Liverpool.

MR. TREVELYAN, M.P. for the Border Burghs, has been absent from his place in the House of Commons more than a week, through indisposition.

MR. FROUDE, who is at present Lord Rector of St. Andrew's University, contemplates addressing the students and council early in March.

TWO MEN were drowned in the Brent reservoir, Hendon, on Sunday, in consequence of the ice giving way with them.

THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE of the Manchester Corporation resolved, on Monday, that all powers to lay down tramways in the city ought to be conferred upon the municipal authorities responsible for the maintenance of the highways; and that all bills otherwise promoted should be opposed.

NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN IN CHANCERY that official liquidators applying for remuneration must make their application by March 5.

A WOMAN, poorly dressed, and of middle age, threw herself from the parapet of Waterloo Bridge on Tuesday. The tide being low at the time she, in her descent, struck on the buttress of the bridge and was instantly killed, her head being crushed.

A PARLIAMENTARY RETURN states that the aggregate amount of the capital, stock, shares, funds, and securities held by the official trustees of charitable funds on Dec. 31, 1869, was £3,946,031 2s. 4d., and the balance of cash £21,577 7s.

THE SECRETARY FOR WAR has decided that Chelsea and Greenwich pensioners are to be paid their pensions in full, notwithstanding that they may be inmates of workhouses, or in receipt of out-relief. The Woolwich guardians have resolved to test the legality of the decision at the first opportunity.

MR. BAXTER has made further discoveries of corrupt practices at one of the Government establishments, which, when they come before the public, will show the necessity of that thorough overhaul which every department of the public service is undergoing at present.

THE MEDIATION of Lord Walsley and Mr. Stanhope in the case of the Thornecliffe Colliery dispute seems likely to lead to beneficial results. An agreement has been drawn up, and the men object only to the minor conditions proposed, so that it is expected the difficulty will soon be got over.

THE GOVERNMENT HAVE TELEGRAPHED INSTRUCTIONS to the various dockyards that no more established men are to be discharged until their pension papers have been received from the Treasury. The discharge of hired men not entitled to pension has been accelerated by the order for discharge of an additional ten per week, making twenty-five weekly from Keyham factory.

MR. LOWE'S BUDGET ESTIMATE OF REVENUE for the expiring financial year was £73,515,000, the receipts up to Saturday last, including the balance in the hands of England and Ireland, amounted to £69,924,008. The estimated expenditure was £68,408,000, but the actual issues from the Exchequer have, so far, been only £60,742,168.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY'S ILLNESS has delayed the annual examination for the usual degrees called "Lambeth Degrees," which the Archbishop of Canterbury is entitled to issue to those who have not availed themselves of the advantages of a University education. The next examination is now definitely fixed for Monday and Tuesday, May 2 and 3.

THE SECOND TRIAL OF THE MAN BARRETT for the attempted assassination of Captain Lambert was brought to a close in Dublin last Saturday night. The jury, after a long deliberation, could not agree upon their verdict, and were discharged.

THE BISHOP (SUFFRAGAN) OF NORWICH has issued to the laity of each parish in his diocese an invitation to send representatives to the annual meetings held in the various rural deaneries. His Lordship hopes by this means that the laity will be led to take a more active and prominent part in matters connected with the Church.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL E. H. D. E. NAPIER has been transferred from the Colonelcy of the 61st Foot to that of the 46th, vacant by the death of Sir Charles Windham; Major-General Sir Horatio Shirley has been appointed Colonel of the 61st; and Lieutenant-General C. A. Lewis, Colonel of the 64th, vacant by the death of Lieutenant-General Bloomfield.

THE PACIFIC STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY OF LIVERPOOL have resolved to establish a semi-monthly line of steamers between Liverpool and the west coast of South America, via the Strait of Magellan, and to begin the extended service as soon as their steam-ships, now in the course of construction, are completed.

AT A MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS in the Albert and its associated life assurance companies, on Wednesday, a plan for reconstructing the office was submitted and approved, subject to some modifications in its details. The provisional committee was then declared a permanent body for the purpose of carrying the reconstruction scheme into effect.

THE BELGIAN POST OFFICE has given notice that the laws of Belgium forbid the transmission by post, within that country, of letters or packets containing money, jewellery, or other articles of value; and that, henceforward, any letters containing such articles which may be sent in the mails to Belgium will be returned to this country undelivered.

A PROSPECTUS has been issued of the New Albert Life Assurance Company (Limited), to carry out the terms of reconstruction of the Albert Company agreed to at a meeting of policy-holders and shareholders on the 8th ult.

A SHOCKING ACCIDENT is reported from Ireland. A fire broke out on the premises of a grocer near Derry, and three sisters, aged twenty-one, nineteen, and sixteen, were burnt to death. Except a very few bones, no traces of the deceased were discovered. The mother was much burnt, but escaped by a ladder from one of the windows.

M. HERVE FAYE, of the Institute, is to succeed M. Leverrier as director of the Paris Observatory. The father of M. Faye was one of the distinguished savants who accompanied Bonaparte to Egypt. The new director was a favourite pupil and private secretary to Arago, and about 1843, while attached to the Paris Observatory, discovered the comet which bears his name.

MR. THOMAS EARLY, of Norwich, who was the owner of some bottles of explosive liquid, one of which, on being lifted out of a train in which he was travelling recently, exploded and seriously injured two railway porters, was taken before the Stafford magistrates and fined £20. The porters are recovering.

THE TIDE IN THE THAMES rose to an unusual height on Monday morning, overflowing the lower grounds upon the banks and flooding several of the cellars and underground stores. Considerable damage was done in Blackfriars, Lambeth, Rotherhithe, and Southwark, some of the streets being inundated. Several vessels broke from their moorings in the Pool, and sustained injury. Steam-boat traffic was resumed on Tuesday.

AN ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE TO SET FIRE TO FARNWORTH PARISH CHURCH, near Bolton. On Sunday the police found that a pane had been taken out of the vestry window, and a quantity of paper, saturated with turpentine and lighted, had been thrust through the opening, falling upon the carpet near the table. The carpet, being woolen, would not ignite; but the leg of the table was burnt. Some matches were also found strewn about.

A COLLIER NAMED WADSWORTH has died at the General Hospital, Nottingham, from hydrophobia. The poor fellow was bitten by a black retriever dog on Christmas Day, and it was afterwards ascertained that the dog was mad. Deceased took no notice of the matter at the time; but last week he was seized with symptoms of this terrible disease, and was unable to sleep. He was removed to the hospital, where he died, after suffering great agony, on Monday evening. The deceased was only twenty-five years of age, and was a very strong young man.

THE RIGHT HON. SIR WILLIAM ERLE, D.C.L., late Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, has been created an honorary Fellow of New College, Oxford. Having been first a scholar of Winchester, he became in due time a Fellow of New College, whence he proceeded to the Bar. Sir William took his degree of D.C.L. on Dec. 17, 1818, and was raised to the degree of D.C.L., by decree of Convocation, on June 18, 1857, when his father-in-law (the Rev. D. Williams, Warden of New College) was Vice-Chancellor of the University.

THE LOUNGER.

SIR CHARLES MORDAUNT, Bart., is the representative of one of the oldest families in the kingdom. It is traceable from Sir Osbert le Mordaunt, a Norman knight of Radwell, in the county of Bedford, who held there an estate granted by William the Conqueror. Subsequently, the Mordaunts became possessors of Turvey, in the same county; and in Turvey church there are several monuments to the Earls of Peterborough, whose ancestor, William Mordaunt, Esq., lived in the reign of Edward IV. The Earldom of Peterborough has long been extinct. When I was young I have often looked with wonder at the old Mordaunt tomb in Turvey church, and inquired about the family, but could learn nothing there. The present Sir Charles Mordaunt is thirty-four years old. He represented South Warwickshire from 1859 to 1865. He was but a fiftieth attendant at the House, and never spoke. In 1866 he married Harriet Sarah, fourth daughter of Sir Thomas Moncreiffe, of Moncreiffe, in Perthshire. Another of this gentleman's daughters married the Duke of Athole; a third, Charles James, eldest son of Sir Charles James Forbes, Bart.; a fourth, the Earl of Dudley. Sir Thomas has had thirteen children, of whom eight are living, and of the daughters four are unmarried.

Lowry Egerton, Viscount Cole, is the eldest surviving son and heir of the Earl of Eniskillen, whose brother, the Hon. Henry Cole, is member for Fermanagh. Captain Arthur Farquhar is the third son of Sir Walter Rockliffe Farquhar; and is a Captain in the Coldstream Guards. Not long ago there was a Sir Minto Farquhar in the House of Commons as member for Hertford; but the gallant Captain is not of that branch of the Farquhar family. Sir Frederick John William Johnstone, of Westerhall, in the county of Dumfries, is one of posthumous twins, born Aug. 5, 1811. Of the Johnstones, Johnstones, and Johnstones which figure in the Baronetage, this gentleman's family seems to be the most ancient. It boasts of a descent from one Hugo de Johnstone, who lived, as I understand the family genealogy, in the reign of Alexander the Third of Scotland.

I have sent you the above that the saddle may be put on the right horse, and for no other reason. There is but one Viscount Cole, but there are two Moncreiffes Baronets (one of whom, however, spells his name Moncreiff); two Farquhars; and two Johnstones (besides another who spells his name Johnston); and if the families which are not connected with the actors in the painful drama which has shocked us so much during the past week should see what I have written, they will, I am sure, be grateful to me.

The Irish members say that if Mr. Gladstone, instead of merely legalising the Ulster custom in Ulster had made it the law for all Ireland, they would have not only accepted the bill *en bloc*, but ensured for him almost Divine honours through the length and breadth of the island; and, really, one cannot see why he should not have done this. If the Ulster custom be good for Ulster, why is it not good for all Ireland? The Roman Catholics say that it is hard that they, who have on the whole so loyally supported the Liberal Government, should be placed in a worse position than the Irish Orangemen, who have always rancorously opposed it; and this seems to be a reasonable complaint. But we must wait till we hear the Prime Minister's reasons before we decide. He and his colleague, Mr. Bright, are not the men to do anything without a reason; and certainly not anything which seems to be unjust.

The *Times* says "there are still intellectual Liberals who look to the Earl of Derby as their future leader. We venture to predict that they will be disappointed. It is only in this age and in this country that we have learned to associate certain aspirations which Lord Derby is supposed to hold with certain other aspirations which are destructive of the Liberal creed. In other ages and in other countries men have been liberal within the sphere of thought and conservative within the sphere of action." That is, that men may think one policy is right but aid in carrying out another, or, in plain words, men who would resent as an intolerable insult the charge of telling a lie may, nevertheless, act a falsehood. This is real infidelity. Scepticism is not infidelity. The true meaning of the Latin word *infidelitas* is not unbelief, but unfaithfulness—unfaithfulness to conviction. This is the sin which Carlyle has all his life been preaching against. If not spiritual death, it inevitably leads to it. The man that acts a lie, comes, in the end, to believe that the lie is true. Again, if in politics men may do this, why not in religion? as, it is to be feared, many do. This is simple Jesuitism. Nothing would be more disastrous to society than the spread of such infidelity as this. I have no fear of what the clergy call infidelity. That only means an honest, earnest desire to know the truth; but nothing can be more injurious—more pestilent, I may say—than unfaithfulness to honest conviction. "As I believe, so I speak," said an Apostle 1800 years ago; and that is what we all ought to do.

"Gladstone the Bishop-maker!" That, Mr. Editor, if I remember aright, was the style and title by which you spoke of our present Premier a few weeks ago. And certainly the title is more appropriate to him than many similar titles have been to those who bore them. He has, for instance, been much more of a manufacturer of bishops than Warwick was a maker, or Count Cavour a catcher, of kings. Lord Palmerston, during his tenure of office, was thought to have had something more than his fair share in the distribution of ecclesiastical patronage, and it was said that he had nominated in three or four years to a third of the entire Bench. But his Lordship's run of luck—if he differed from Lord Melbourne so far as to think it luck—was by no means equal to that of Mr. Gladstone, to whom has fallen the duty of nominating, since the beginning of August last, to at least eight sees, vacant through deaths, resignations, or promotions. These sees are Salisbury, Exeter, Carlisle, Winchester, Oxford, Bath and Wells, Manchester, and Chichester, to which it is just at the present moment doubtful whether that of St. Asaph should not be added. During the fourteen months of his Premiership, Mr. Gladstone has also had the privilege of nominating to three deaneries—viz., those of Durham, Ely, and Rochester. It is curious to note, by-the-by, that of late years the privilege of making bishops and promoting persons has fallen most largely to men whom the clergy look not upon as specially their friends. Lord Palmerston was not deemed much of a parson's man; and we all know what the mind ecclesiastical thinks of Mr. Gladstone. Oxford University, Lancashire, and Judas Iscariot are still fresh in our recollection.

I see that the Hon. Grantley F. Berkeley has been denouncing in the columns of a contemporary of yours what he terms the "blatant noise" with which farmers have of late been in the habit of speaking about rabbit-warrens. Not much philosophy, or its humbler representative, common-sense, is to be looked for from the Hon. Grantley F. Berkeley; but even he might manage to see the fallacy of the argument he adduces on the so-called social advantages of rabbit-breeding. He says that he is in the habit of giving away rabbits to poor applicants for them, and of selling them by retail at the same price—"14d. a couple"—as he disposes of them to the dealers; and he exclaims, in effect, "See what a boon that is to the poor! They can make more sustenance, more animal food, out of the couple of rabbits at 14d., for themselves and their children, than they could for that sum when laid out in beef or mutton." Now it is very likely that the Hon. Grantley F. Berkeley can afford to sell rabbits—which cost him nothing, seeing that they feed on the produce of other men's labour—cheaper than farmers can produce beef and mutton, seeing that they must provide sustenance for the oxen and sheep. But that is not the point between the farmer and the game-preserved, nor between the former and the public, which is, that rabbits are more costly to those who do feed them, and yet produce less sustenance for man, than either oxen or sheep. Three rabbits, it has been found on experiment, consume in a given time, even when shut up, more food than one sheep, and do not make so much flesh; while rabbits at large destroy much more than they consume. It consequently follows that to feed rabbits is a great deal more costly than to fatten sheep. Three rabbits—or even, say, two couples—contain, when dead, a vast deal less animal food than one sheep; and yet they cost as much or more for food when living. Why, one quarter of a fair average sheep will weigh more, and consequently

yield more "sustenance, more animal food," for man than the whole four rabbits. Then, as to profit for the farmer, an ordinary sheep will bring him from 30s. to 40s.; while two couples of Mr. Grantley F. Berkeley's rabbits are worth only 2s. 4d. Need a word more be said to show that sheep-rearing is really far more economical than rabbit-breeding—to those who have to feed them? The Hon. Grantley F. Berkeley is also delightfully illogical on the subject of the crime-producing tendencies of game-preserving. He says:—"I now come to the empty assertion that crime (or the theft of game) is to be diminished by the abolition of 'large preserves.' It is not the large and well-protected preserve that fosters crime. It is the little neglected head of game indigenous to the soil that tempts men to the infraction of the law, because in seeking the little game there is they run no chance of capture or punishment." Of course, men do not become poachers because large temptations are placed before them! They are not tempted by extensive and well-stocked preserves, in which "bags" may be easily made! It is only the little, neglected head of game, which takes a deal of trouble to catch, that leads them astray! Make the whole kingdom a vast game preserve, swarming with creatures that are easily caught and readily marketable, and poaching will be exterminated! That is the Hon. Grantley F. Berkeley's logic. Does not the reader admire it hugely? and is it not mere "blatant noise" to dispute its soundness?

It is notified, I see, that on March 1 will appear the first number of a new daily financial paper, entitled the *Financier*, and conducted by the gentleman who, after holding the City editorship of the *Daily News* for nearly twenty years, has just resigned it. I trust the editor of the *Financier* will steadfastly set his face against the system of company-mongering and dishonest trading generally, which have been the curse and reproach of English commercial affairs for years past.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

In the *Fortnightly Review* Mr. J. F. M'Lennan (the gentleman who, some time ago, wrote a book on primitive marriage customs, though the exact title is not in my recollection) concludes his papers on "The Worship of Plants and Animals." Most of his readers will be sorry to notice the extreme brevity and hastiness of this interesting series—the conclusion being almost painfully hurried. Mr. F. Seebohm returns to the Land Question—"The Severance of the English People from the Land;" and the majority of people will surely like him much better in this vein than in the theological. These essays are, indeed, very valuable. But I could make nothing of a paper, by the same author (which appeared about a year ago), inviting men of science to investigate the phenomena of the Christian life. Mr. Herman Merivale writes powerfully on "The Colonial Question in 1870;" and Mr. Arthur Hobhouse, Q.C., on the "Forfeiture of Property by Married Women." One thing is clear—viz., that those questions about the readjustment of the law upon this and certain related questions cannot possibly stop short at any point such as the reformers appear, as yet, to have thought of. The whole of the existing theory of marriage, including in a particular sense the laws concerning the property of married women, is founded upon old ecclesiastical assumptions. In the book of Genesis it is said, as we all know, that the woman was made out of the man's side while the man was in deep sleep, and that therefore the husband and the wife are "one flesh." Upon this arise, in the history of the subject, endless curious questions as to what constitutes the *unitas carnis*; what violates it; what makes a new *unitas carnis*, and the like. With what success canon lawyers have grappled with these extraordinary questions anybody may read for himself in the proper places, if he likes to take the trouble. But, in the meantime, it is perfectly clear, whatever the ideal may be, however true it be that in a true marriage the husband and wife are, in some mystical sense, one flesh, that those who are called man and wife are in fact, for all the purposes of civil society, two, and not one. They eat and drink separately; food taken by Jack does not nourish Jill, nor does Jack's sleep refresh her; and it is very certain that one may murder, or thrash, or otherwise injure the other. It is impossible not to observe that what has for centuries been the basis of legislation in these matters is being quietly ignored. Mr. J. E. Keble on "Jane Austen" is thoughtful, gentlemanly, and fair.

In the *Contemporary Review* there is a large quantity of highly interesting matter. The Rev. H. R. Haweis is well known as a London clergyman of fine faculties, high culture, and far-reaching sensibilities. He has published in this Review some of the very best papers ever written upon the lives of musicians, and he is probably, upon the whole, the most accomplished of musical critics. In his peculiar walk mere technical capacity goes for little. It is well known that of all public writers the "musical" are the most hideously inharmonious; they are a wrangling, jangling, dogmatic, cut-throat tribe. But Mr. Haweis is a writer of another stamp, and, with a large capacity of humour, manages to make his irony as gentle as his criticism is acute. His paper on "Bells" is very amusing, besides being full of information, thought, and sensibility. The essay "by Sophia Dobson Collett" (who is heartily welcome to this new sphere of labour) is very pleasing and thoughtful. I only hope "Keshub Chunder Sen" will keep his head and conscience clear while he is in England; and that neither politeness, nor friendship, nor champagne, nor the "electricity" of crowds, nor the indirect pressure of what is charmingly called "influence," will make him for one moment untrue to his own convictions, be they negative, affirmative, or what not. If we are to know, in deed and in a truth, what "Indian Theism in its Relation to Christianity" is, we must refrain from putting any pressure whatever upon its leaders. Already, it appears, at home, to have suffered in point of truthfulness from the interference of one person or another. Is there never, never, while this weary world lasts, to be a single case of plain, honest, respectful *laissez faire* in open questions? Is there to be no end to the processes of controversial enlistment, not to say impressment, that are still going on, and still threatening to continue?

Good Words for the Young is, as usual, a beautiful and beneficent magazine. In the elder Good Words, Mr. Arthur Helps is especially interesting, but I fear that if Mr. Milverton's friend Mauleverer had seen a little more of human suffering, its apparent capriciousness of incidence, and its immense and horrible variety, he would have made out a stronger case. However, talk and wish as long as you will, there is no explaining the inexplicable. The question *Why?* pursues you to the very verge of chaos when all the optimists have done their best. If men like George MacDonald would only see this, and give us their insight without their criticism, how they would help us—instead of rasping at the sore places as they do now!

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Before DRURY LANE finally falls back upon "The Peep o' Day," with its great sensational effects and trained supers, an attempt has been made to throw a halo over the poetical drama. But when the poetical dramatist is Sheridan Knowles, and the interpreter of the poet Mr. T. C. King, it will not be very surprising that Mr. Blanchard's pantomime has been more popular than "The Wife." For my own part, I think that Mr. Sheridan Knowles is a very over-rated dramatist; and, happily, with all our eccentricities and bad taste, we are not so crass as our forefathers, who imagined that blank verse was necessarily poetry. Mr. T. C. King does not do very much towards helping the lame dog over the style. His voice is coarse, and he altogether lacks animation—an absolute essential in a romantic actor. Mr. King has been brought up in a bad school; but there is yet time for him to see the error of his ways; for most assuredly we are beginning to find out the absurdities of the good old five-act tragedy school, and we look in young and rising tragedians for originality and thought, not slavish and often weak imitation of a class of actors eaten up and rendered worthless by the most contemptible mannerisms.

Talking about the poetical drama reminds me that I saw a very creditable performance of "As You Like It," at the GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION, last Saturday. A Miss Osborne was the Rosalind of the evening, and the Orlando and Jaques were very far superior to the ordinary run of amateurs—that is to say, though the young people were all abroad with their hands and legs, and seldom got on or off the stage without an effort, they spoke the text with care and propriety, and evidently understood their author. I hear that Mr. Walter Lacy has taken in hand the best members of this amateur troupe, and the name of Mr. Charles Harcourt in connection with the affair shows that the dramatic aspirants are in very good hands.

"Wanted, a good melodrama. Apply at the Surrey Theatre." This should be Mrs. Pitt's immediate advertisement. "Pike O'Callaghan" was bad enough, but how very much superior to "The Power of Gold; or, Honesty is the Best Policy," a three-act play altogether unworthy of the Surrey! It has been written by Mr. Ozman, and is a wretched hotch-potch of the silliest situations and the weakest dialogue imaginable. I believe the SURREY is not under the Lord Chamberlain; but did the licenser of plays actually pass the dialogue between Mr. John Murray and Miss C. Morgan, who are supposed to be an engaged couple, and indulge in some rather free conversation before going to bed? But perhaps Mr. Ozman is not responsible for this talk, and it may be attributed to Mr. John Murray's "gag." If so, Mrs. Pitt ought to stop it at once, because the Surrey has a certain position which the manageress is evidently anxious to preserve. A pretty little lady—Miss Lottie Pitt—has this week appeared in the pantomime at the Surrey. She has a fresh and pleasant manner, and is a very promising burlesque actress.

Mr. H. J. Byron has deserted the Globe and now appears nightly at the ADELPHI. Pending the production of his new drama, the popular "Not Such a Fool as He Looks" will be played.

"Barwise's Book" is postponed at the HAYMARKET because, *inhabitable dictu*, Lord Dundreary is still popular.

I very much regret to hear of the serious indisposition of Mr. T. W. Robertson and Mr. William Brough. I learn that Mr. Robertson is unable at present to put the polishing touches on his new comedy for the PRINCE OF WALES'S. Miss Marie Wilton and Miss Carlotta Addison have also been very unwell, and, consequently, "School" has been almost recast.

"The Military Billy Taylor" has taken the place of "The Flying Dutchman" at the ROYALTY.

On Saturday night ASTLEY's burst into the legitimate drama. "Mazepa" is deposited in favour of "Othello." The latter play will be well worth seeing, for, besides Mr. Phelps, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Vezin are announced. This is a step in the right direction, Mr. E. T. Smith.

Mr. Charles Smith Cheltenham's comedy, "A Lesson in Love," and Mr. T. J. Williams's farce of "My Turn Next," were represented by the members of the 1st Surrey Rifles Dramatic Club, at their headquarters, Camberwell, on the 23rd inst. I am utterly unable to understand the motive that induced an amateur company to select Mr. Cheltenham's "Lesson in Love" as a means of exhibiting their histrionic ability; for a plot of so flimsy a nature, carried through three acts, cannot be otherwise than tedious, even when supported by professionals. If judiciously compressed, it would play capital as a one-act farce; but as a comedy it is contemptible. Anastasia Winterberry, whose affections are so ruthlessly trifled with, had a humorous representative in Miss Harvey; Ensign Fourdrinier was sufficiently self-possessed as the susceptible Middlemark; and the matchmaking proclivities of Mrs. Sutherland were pleasantly portrayed by Miss Austin. Miss Ashford appeared as Edith Leslie; and Private Macrone as Babblerbrook, a character seldom, if ever, seen in real life. In "My Turn Next" Ensign Fourdrinier, effectively disguised, depicted with exceeding cleverness the terrors that are endured by Taraxicum Twitters, the victim of a self-imagined plot; and Miss Austin was amusing as the sulky Peggy. The remaining parts were fairly acted by Misses Harvey and Ashford, Corporal Willis, and Privates Ruston and Ellen. The orchestral performances were wretchedly discordant.

PROFESSOR MAX MULLER ON THE SCIENCE OF RELIGION.

LAST Saturday Professor Max Müller delivered the first of a course of four lectures on the "Science of Religion" at the Royal Institution; the theatre was well filled by a fashionable audience. Prince Christian and Dean Stanley being among those present. The lecturer commenced by saying that he anticipated that what he should have to say would raise some antagonism in the breasts of those whose religious prejudices may be strong; but he felt certain that he would have a good hearing. Religion was a most sacred subject, and he should treat it accordingly. All higher knowledge is gained by comparison, and particularly so a better knowledge of religion. It may be that in the comparative system, as applied to religion, things may have to be inquired into which we should not care about any civilised nation believing; but we must bear in mind that, for the decency of truth, there is nothing so good as the study of error. It has been remarked that he who knows only one language knows none—that is, that he does not know properly the original of the language and the causes of its existence. It is the same with religion. Man possesses a particular faculty for religion, which raises him above all other living things created. That faculty is independent of sense and feeling, and superior to them. It is a faculty of apprehending the infinite. The science of religion may be divided into two parts—comparative theology and theoretic theology. It is strange that comparative theology has never as yet been properly investigated. It is a most interesting and instructive study, and the materials which now exist for its prosecution are very large and useful, in comparison with the facilities afforded for the study of the subject in former years. The great spread of the knowledge of languages—particularly Oriental—and the vast accumulation of good translations of books on the religious beliefs of all countries, from the most remote ages, have rendered the study of comparative theology a matter of no great difficulty. Indeed, the comparative study of religion has become a necessity, and would ere long take the important position in our educational course to which it was entitled. Those who have studied the science of language should take the science of religion in hand, for one was, he said, closely connected with the other. He believed the more we knew of this subject the more we should find that the purest truth lies hidden in even the most despised religions of the world. Unless our religion has become what it has not been, it is advantageous for it not to shrink from a comparison with the established principles of the religions of the whole world. He believed that much of the disagreement in religious matters was to be attributed to the constant misrepresentation of ancient language in the course of its translation into modern language, and the difference between ancient Eastern and modern Western thought.

LAUNCH OF THE ARYSSINIA.—This fine specimen of naval architecture (a floating ram designed for the protection of the harbour of Bombay) has just been launched from the works of Messrs. Dudgeon, of Millwall, in the presence of Sir Bartle Frere, C.B., late Governor of Bombay (whose daughter performed the ceremony of christening), General Talbot, Mr. James Lake, chief inspector of the Admiralty, and a numerous and distinguished company. The length of the ram between perpendiculars is 225 ft.; beam over all, 42 ft.; depth of hold, 12 ft. 3 in.; and her burden is 1654 tons. Her engines are of 200-horse power nominal, and 1200 indicated; her draught, when complete, will be 15 ft., and her estimated speed is eight knots per hour. She is constructed on the turret principle of Captain Cole, and has two turrets working two guns of 18 tons in each turret. She is armour-plated 4 ft. below the water-line, the plates being from 7 in. to 10 in. in thickness, with a backing of teak of from 9 in. to 11 in. Her complement of officers and men is calculated at one hundred. The launch passed off most satisfactorily, and Sir Bartle Frere, in the course of a few observations addressed to the assembled company, alluded to the fact that this was the first vessel constructed with the view of carrying out Earl Granville's idea that the colonies should provide vessels for the protection of their own harbours and coasts.

LORD DERBY AND THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

LORD DERBY has decided, after due consideration, that he is unfitted "by habit and temperament" for the function of party leadership. The formal, almost solemn, demand made upon him at a meeting of the Conservative peers, last Saturday, has been well weighed, and this is the answer. Several good reasons disposed us to anticipate that it would be of a different character. But—we have to confess it—we did not make sufficient allowance for "habit and temperament," which finally decided his Lordship. And we entirely agree with Lord Derby, that a certain absence of experience, and a still more distinct absence of certain necessary qualifications, do unfit him for the position of a party leader. This we say without meaning to derogate from the Earl's importance as a politician. No doubt it is true that no man can be accounted a politician of the first rank who is not capable of commanding in open field the forces of the party to which he belongs; but such a man may be a far more useful public servant than one who has the special quality of command or leadership. Thus, Lord Granville is distinctly gifted with a capacity for party generalship in excess, by comparison, of his qualities as a statesman. And so in admitting his natural incapacity to lead the Tory party—or any party—in the House of Lords, Lord Derby may be perfectly sincere without resigning his pretensions to consideration as a political personage. But, whatever may be the degree of sincerity which enters into his disclaimer, we have no doubt at all that it is well founded. It is his nature to halt, to hesitate on one foot; and, though a very safe career may be accomplished in that way, it is by no means characteristic of the movements of a hopeful party leader. No one seems to be more fully persuaded of this fact than Lord Derby himself; and though he has written of "other claims on my time and attention," and the novelty to him of the "practice of the House of Lords," there can be little doubt that his real reason for choosing so serious a responsibility as declining the functions of party leader at a juncture like the present is a conviction that he is quite unequal to the responsibilities of accepting it. He is right. Nor is it possible that the chiefs of the party who besought him to take the post can have been ignorant or forgetful of his incapacity, any more than of other circumstances which rendered his elevation to the leadership at present of very doubtful advantage; which demonstrates to what sore straits they are reduced. What they will do now is not quite clear. The Duke of Marlborough is possible; the Duke of Richmond is possible; Lord Salisbury bides his time; and more than that we do not pretend to know.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

NOTTINGHAM.—The result of Wednesday's contest at Nottingham was the return of Mr. Anson Herbert by a majority more than twice as large as that which seated Mr. Charles Seely in June last. Mr. Herbert took the lead from the beginning, and when the poll closed, 4971 votes had been polled in his favour, giving him a majority over Mr. Digby Seymour of 296. The constituency numbers more than 14,000, and 9610 exercised the franchise, or 466 more than on the last occasion of a contest in Nottingham, when Mr. Seymour's minority was 110. It is somewhat remarkable that less than five years ago—at the general election of 1865—Mr. Herbert, the Liberal candidate of Wednesday, contested Newport, Isle of Wight, as a Conservative, while Mr. Seymour, who now comes forward as a progressive Conservative, contested Southampton as an advanced Liberal.

WATFORD.—The polling in Watford took place on Thursday. The latest return to hand when we commence printing gives the number of votes as follows:—Bernal Osborne, 450; Smith, 401. This return is dated two o'clock p.m.

TIPPERARY.—The nomination for Tipperary took place, on Wednesday at Clonmel. Mr. Heron, Q.C., and Charles Kicham, a released Fenian, were proposed, and the show of hands was declared to be in favour of the latter. A poll was demanded on behalf of Mr. Heron, and this was fixed for Saturday (this day).

NORWICH.—It is confidently stated in Norwich that Sir W. Russell, who has represented that city since the spring of 1860, is about to resign his seat. The report of the Norwich Election Commission has not yet appeared; but it is understood that the Commissioners will report that bribery did not extensively prevail at the last Norwich election, and that it was not traceable to the leaders on either side. Under these circumstances it is confidently expected that the writ for the second seat for the city—which has been suspended since Sir H. Stracey was unseated for bribery in January, 1869—will be issued in a few days, and that an election for two members will take place. The supporters of Mr. J. H. Tillett, who was brought out as an advanced Liberal candidate in the summer of 1868, but who failed to obtain election at the dissolution of that year, are well pleased with this result, as they are sanguine that Mr. Tillett will be returned.

RETURNS SINCE THE GENERAL ELECTION.—Since the present Parliament assembled on Dec. 10, 1868, the elections which have taken place are sixty-three in number, and the net result of the changes is a gain of one seat to the Liberal party. Seats have been won at Bowdley, Brecon, Bridgnorth, London (City), Nottingham, and Taunton; while the losses have been in Dumfriesshire, Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities, Southwark, Stafford, and Wareham. The vacant seats for which writs have been issued are Malden, Roxburghshire, Tipperary, and Watford. Three of these will be filled up this week; and the fourth, Roxburghshire, on Wednesday next.

AUCTION SALES OF AUSTRALIAN MEATS.—The progress of the Australian meat experiments in this country may be inferred from the fact that on Tuesday next upwards of one hundred tons of Australian beef, mutton, extract of meat, sheep's tongues, essence of beef, German sausages, &c., will be sold by auction, by Mr. D. Tallerman, at the Hop and Malt Exchange, Southwark-street. Much interest is attached to this sale, which will form the first of its kind in this country, and will, if successful, prove the commencement of an entirely new branch of trade between this country and the colonies.

THE LATE GENERAL WINDHAM.—Some particulars have been received in Norfolk with reference to the death of Lieutenant-General Sir G. A. Windham, who was connected by family associations with that county. It appears that Lieutenant-General Windham proceeded to Kansas about seven weeks ago, for the purpose of examining some lands which he had purchased in that State. While in Kansas he was attacked with heart disease, and he proceeded, on medical advice, to the milder and more salubrious climate of the Florida coast. He went to Jacksonville, a town on the St. John's River, but his disease became complicated with an obstinate bronchitis. The health of the gallant General was, however, improving, when, on the night of Jan. 27, a fire broke out in the house in which he was staying; he suffered some exposure and hardships in consequence, and died on Feb. 3. General Windham has been buried in Florida.

A TOKEN OF AFFECTION.—One day last week a widow interred her husband in the cemetery at Blackburn. During the ceremony she wept bitterly, at the same time holding her right hand under the left breast, as if for the purpose of suppressing those heartfelt emotions that are sometimes evidenced in paroxysms of uncontrollable grief. She lingered by her husband's grave-side until the officiating minister and most of the mourners had retired from the spot. Suddenly she drew something from underneath her left breast, which proved to be her late husband's clogs, ironed at the sides. These she threw into the open grave, exclaiming, "Heer, thy shoes wi' thine, for thine's pushed mi wi' out enough." The clogs, which would weigh from 6 lb. to 8 lb., fell with a heavy thud upon the coffin, the joiner's work of which it was very likely they would injure. After leaving this token in the grave of her husband, the bereaved widow momentarily dried her tears, and soon after rejoined the mourners.—*Preston Herald*.

"HOIST WITH HER OWN" ROPE.—The *Nord* relates the following incident which has happened at Flessingue, in Holland.—A wife, exasperated by the continual drunkenness of her husband, threatened him with death. Some days ago she attempted to put this threat into execution. There was but an attic above the sitting-room. To this she ascended, made a hole in the floor, and passed a rope through it, one end of which fell into the room below, while the other remained fastened in the attic. She then descended, made a slip-knot in the rope, and awaited her husband's return. He at last arrived, and was much surprised to receive no reproaches on his bad conduct. "There is something underneath here," thought he, "I must see." We must premise that this scene took place in complete darkness. The husband, whose suspicions were roused, let himself fall into a chair, and appeared to sleep profoundly. After some snoring he felt a rope passed round his neck; he then understood the little trick that was to be played him, but did not move. His wife went up to the attic, and, taking advantage of this moment's respite, the drunkard relieved himself of his rope and fastened it to the foot of the stove, which soon went up to the ceiling with a frightful noise, caused by the fall of some crockery which was standing upon it. The wife, thinking the noise was caused by the fruitless struggles of her husband, ran to the police-office to declare that she had found her husband hung. The police arrived in hot haste, and a candle was lighted, when all started back at the spectacle which presented itself. The stove was swinging gracefully in space, and the husband sat gravely smoking his pipe. Instead of a suicide attempt to murder was established against the wife, who was arrested.

THE ARMY AND NAVY ESTIMATES.

THE Army Estimates for the year 1870-1 show, as compared with last year, a net decrease of £1,136,900. The amount required is, for the effective services, £10,678,200; non-effective services, £2,296,800; or a total of £12,975,000, as against £14,111,900 for last year. The principal heads under which there is a decrease are as follows:—In the regular force—General staff and regimental pay, allowances, and charges, £161,200; medical establishment and services, £10,500. In the reserve forces—Militia and inspection, £50,200. In the control establishments and services—Provisions, forage, fuel, transport, &c., £260,400; clothing establishments, £93,600; warlike stores, £136,600; works and buildings, £179,800. For military education there is a decrease of £18,900; and miscellaneous services, £13,200. The only item of increase is one of £800 for the army reserve force, including enrolled pensioners. The total force, the cost of which is to be defrayed from the present Estimates, is, of all ranks—Regiments, 106,827; dépôts in the United Kingdom of regiments in India, 6394; general and departmental staff, 1239; establishments, 170; miscellaneous ditto, 407; or a grand total of 115,037, as against 127,366 last year—a decrease of 12,308.

The Navy Estimates represent a net decrease of £746,111, the total expenditure estimated for being £9,250,530, as compared with £9,996,611 for the last financial year. The increases occur under the following heads—viz., in the scientific branch to the extent of £5974; in medical establishments, £2973; marine divisions, £1556: being total increases for the effective service of £10,503. The largest item of decrease, of £300,897, occurs on the vote for steam-machinery and ships built by contract. The next reduction is to the extent of £207,652 on the vote for dock and naval yards at home and abroad. There are also decreases of £203,411 on the vote for victuals and clothing for the marines, and of £69,622 on the wages to seamen and marines. The other items of decrease are as follows:—Admiralty Office, 9336; coastguard service, naval coast volunteers, and naval reserve, £27,118; victualling yards and transport establishments, £11,404; naval stores, £22,482; new works, machinery, and repairs, £5584; medicines, £6150; martial law and law charges, £1466; miscellaneous services, £1859: being total reductions for the effective service of £866,981. There is also a decrease of £19,008 upon the vote for conveyance of troops. Against these reductions, however must be placed, in addition to the increases above mentioned, an augmentation of the vote for half and retired pay, amounting to £58,869; of £65,938 on military pensions and allowances, and £64,568 on civil pensions and allowances. The number of seamen provided for is 47,000, as compared with 49,000 last year; and of marines 14,000, the same number as last year. The flag officers in commission will number 143, as compared with 199 last year. The number of officers superintending dockyards and naval establishments is reduced from 54 to 29; the warrant officers from 1063 to 871. There is, on the other hand, an increase in subordinate officers (including disposable supernumeraries and midshipmen and naval cadets under training) from 661 to 1036, and in petty officers and seamen from 28,401 to 29,158. The total forces in the fleet and coastguard services provided for are 61,000, as compared with 63,300 last year. The reductions in the vote for dockyards are spread over nearly all the items composing the vote. They include a decrease of £182,768 in the item of wages to artificers, and £20,560 in that of salaries and allowances. The salaried establishment at Deptford storeyard is calculated at £1371, the wages at £3200; the salaried establishment at Woolwich is fixed at £1460 as compared with £11,585 last year, and the item of wages is reduced from £47,573 to £3883. The number of men employed last year in Woolwich Dockyard was 697; the estimated number for the present year is fifty-five only. The total vote for Woolwich Dockyard is reduced from £59,158 to £5343. The total for Chatham Dockyard is reduced from £208,917 to £178,975; Sheerness, from £133,904 to £109,704; Portsmouth, from £271,319 to £214,244; Devonport, from £238,035 to £207,112; Pembroke, from £97,835 to £81,394. On the other hand, the item for Haulbowline naval yard is increased from £670 to £863; that for Gibraltar is increased from £5069 to £5200; but the vote for Malta naval yard is diminished from £30,039 to £28,275. The total for Halifax naval yard is reduced from £4095 to £3848.

THE NUMBER OF DOGS IN IRELAND appears to have diminished greatly since the passing of the Act of 1865 imposing a 2s. annual tax for them. In 1866 333,798 dogs were registered, and the tax was paid for them; in 1867 the number fell to 256,752; and in 1868 it was only 248,003. The produce of the tax in Ireland is applied in reduction of local taxation.

NINETEEN ADHERENTS of the "Countess of Derwentwater" were, on Wednesday, indicted at the Newcastle Assizes for riot and conspiracy in having forcibly seized some farm stock belonging to the tenants of the Derwentwater estates. The bailiff, who superintended the seizure, was sent to prison for nine months, and the others were released on their recognisances.

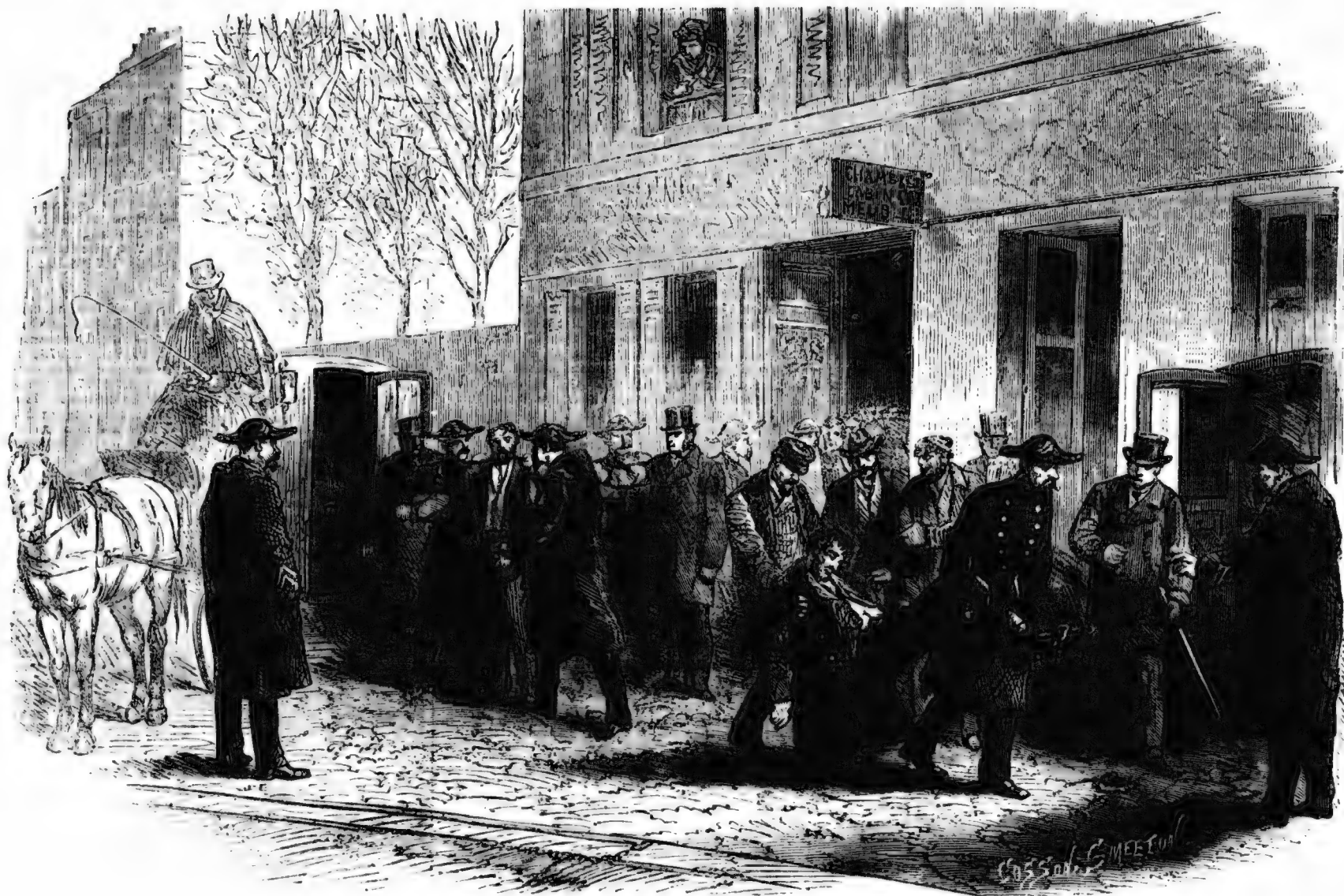
A MAN NAMED MULLINS was shot dead on Usher's-quay, Dublin, on Sunday night. It is believed that the assassination is the result of some dispute connected with the Fenian conspiracy. Four men have been arrested on suspicion, but no arms were found in possession of either of the prisoners. One of the prisoners, named Ayres, is, however, stated by the wife of the murdered man to have attempted to induce her husband to join in a raid for arms. She adds, that on her dissuading her husband from joining the party, he remarked that he would be shot for "disobedience of orders."

MORMONISM IN UTAH.—The American papers just received contain accounts of an "indignation meeting" attended by about 3000 women, on Jan. 13, at Salt Lake City, from which gentlemen, reporters excepted, were excluded. The object of the meeting was to protest against two bills brought into the Federal Congress (one in each Chamber) for the suppression of polygamy, and the strongest language was used by some of the women speakers. One of them declared that they had not met to agitate for "women's rights," but for "men's rights." It is a remarkable sequel to this and a proof of the entire confidence of the Mormon men in the subjection of their women, that on Feb. 7 the Legislature of Utah passed a bill giving women the suffrage; and it is calculated that 25,000 women will be qualified to vote, a number exceeding the male voters in the territory.

IRISH AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.—An abstract of the agricultural statistics for Ireland, for 1869, has been published. The 4000 enumerators, selected from the Royal Irish constabulary and metropolitan police force, have furnished returns of tillage and live stock on nearly 600,000 separate holdings. The total area under all crops, in 1869, was 5,575,843 acres, showing an increase in the extent under crops of 27,872 acres. Wheat decreased by 4032 acres, oats by 16,857 acres, and beans and peas by three acres. Barley increased by 34,591 acres, and bere and rye by 1293 acres. Potatoes increased by 7156 acres, turnips by 1796, mangel and beetroot by 2018, and vetches and rape by 2355 acres. Cabbage decreased by 736 acres; carrots, parsnips, and other green crops by fifty-eight acres; and meadow and clover by 24,335 acres. Flax increased by 22,693 acres.

SACRILEGE IN THE LAKE DISTRICT.—The Cumberland and Westmorland police have been inquiring into a number of extraordinary outrages committed during the last week or two in the Lake district. Ten churches have been broken into and desecrated, and in several school-rooms wanton outrages have been committed. Last week two churches near Kendal were broken into, the communion-plate damaged, and the register-books destroyed. At Longmarton, near Appleby, similar outrages were committed. The parish church of Crosthwaite, near Keswick, and Newlands church were afterwards visited by the marauders. The sacramental wine was drunk, the poor-boxes robbed, and an unsuccessful attempt was afterwards made to break open a safe containing the plate and the registers. Buttermere church was also entered. Two young men named Robinson and Webster are in custody on the charge of complicity in the outrages. They have been remanded by the magistrates.

NEW TREATMENT OF SNAKE-BITE.—Cases of successful treatment of snake-bite by Professor Halford's remedy—the injection of ammonia into the veins—are becoming of almost everyday occurrence. One of the latest reported is that of a woman named Watson, residing near Tarsdale, who was bitten by a brown snake just above the ankle. Ordinary remedies were tried, but did not prove of any avail. Six hours after the bite had been inflicted, and when the woman was sinking into a state of coma, ammonia was injected into the large vein of the left arm, when the patient immediately rallied, and in twelve hours appeared to have entirely recovered. Professor Halford's services to humanity in introducing this valuable remedy are about to receive recognition of a practical kind. A meeting, at which many members of the medical profession were present, has been held, and a committee has been formed to procure funds for a substantial presentation.—*Melbourne Argus*, Jan. 3.



ARREST OF MEGY AND REMOVAL OF A MURDERED POLICE OFFICER IN THE RUE DES MOINES, PARIS.



DISASTER IN THE BOULEVARD JOURDAN, MARSEILLES.

THE BILLIARD CHALLENGE VASE.

BILLIARD-PLAYING has recently grown very much in favour as a game of skill, apart from being merely a source of amusement. Mr. Roberts, who had long been regarded as the English champion—though he has now had to resign his laurels to Mr. Cook, a younger competitor—gave an impulse to the game; and it has now been determined that the championship shall no longer be a barren honour, but that the holder of the position shall also be the custodian of a handsome challenge cup or vase, of which we this week publish an Engraving.

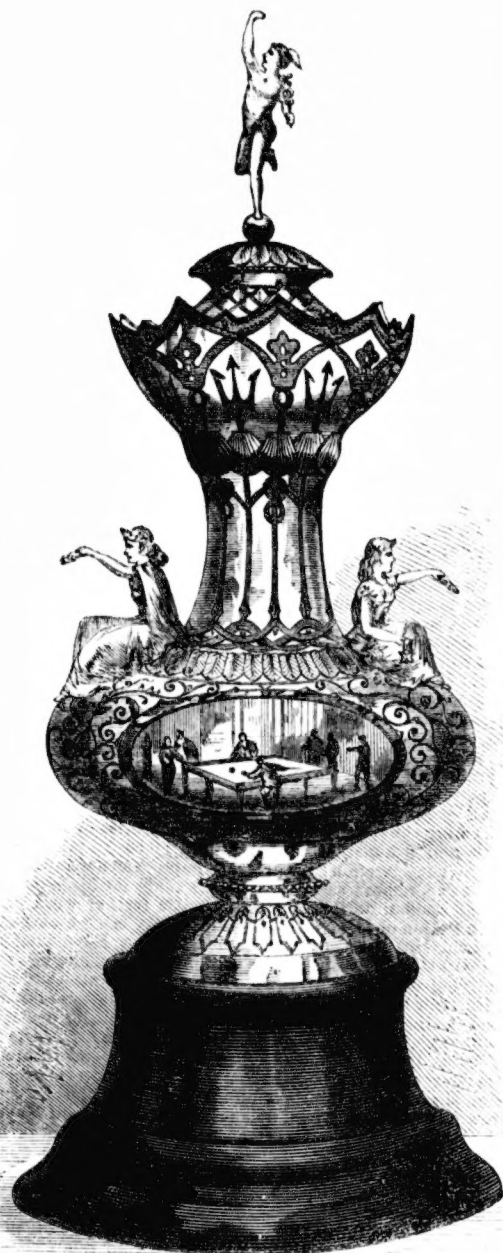
The vase has been executed by Messrs. Benson, of Old Bond-street, from a design specially made for the purpose. It is of novel form, and is surmounted by the John of Boulogne figure of Mercury. On each side of the body sits a figure of Victory or Fame, extending a laurel wreath in one hand and offering a Maltese cross with the other. The body is also richly embossed all over with moresque ornaments. On one side is a bas-relief in repoussé work, representing a billiard-room, table, players, and other accessories, while a shield on the other side bears a suitable inscription, the whole being enriched by panel gilding and furnishing. The vase stands on an ebony pedestal, the total height being about 2 ft. 6 in.; and the entire cost has been £120. Half a dozen gold Maltese crosses have also been ordered, one of which will be given to each holder of the championship.

THE LATE DISTURBANCES IN PARIS.

THE excitement consequent on the Rochefort émeute has now completely calmed down, but not before another murder was committed. On the 11th instant a Commissary of Police proceeded to arrest one of the Republican leaders, a mechanic named Mégy, who resided in the Rue des Moines. The door of his chamber was locked. After summoning the object of their search, he replied, from within, "One moment," and then opened the door of his chamber and fired a pistol in the face of the foremost policeman. The ball lodged in the forehead of the officer behind the man aimed at, and he shortly afterwards expired. The murderer was arrested, and conducted to the Conciergerie. The scene is portrayed in one of our Engravings. In another, M. Ollivier, Minister of Justice, and M. Chevandier de Valdrôme, Minister of the Interior, are shown while on a visit to the Prefecture of Police, while the riots were in progress. Here they remained for some time; occupying themselves in examining the trophies captured from the would-be insurgents, among which were some of the firearms stolen from the store of M. Lefauchaux.

FATAL ACCIDENT AT MARSEILLES.

A TERRIBLE accident has occurred at Marseilles, by which two persons have lost their lives, while several others have been more or less seriously injured. The catastrophe is said to have been caused by the recent heavy rains, which have almost inundated the country and have especially affected some portions of Marseilles, where the nature of the ground and the state of the foundations of several buildings seem to have led to the deplorable result of which we have to speak. It occurred at about midnight, in the quarter known as Crottes, where the whole neighbourhood was shaken, and the inhabitants startled by an explosion, which was at first attributed to the bursting of a boiler at the workshops of the Compagnie Frayssinet, or an escape at the gas manufactory, both of which were in close proximity to the spot from which the sound seemed to come. People were soon running in all directions in the vain endeavour to discover the meaning of the strange noise; but the night was so dark and such a torrent of rain was falling that, for some time, no intelligence could be procured until the attention of some of the people near the place was attracted to frightful shrieks and cries in the direction of the boulevard Jourdan. There it was discovered that two houses had entirely fallen in, and were reduced to little more than a heap of ruins, almost



THE BILLIARD CHALLENGE VASE

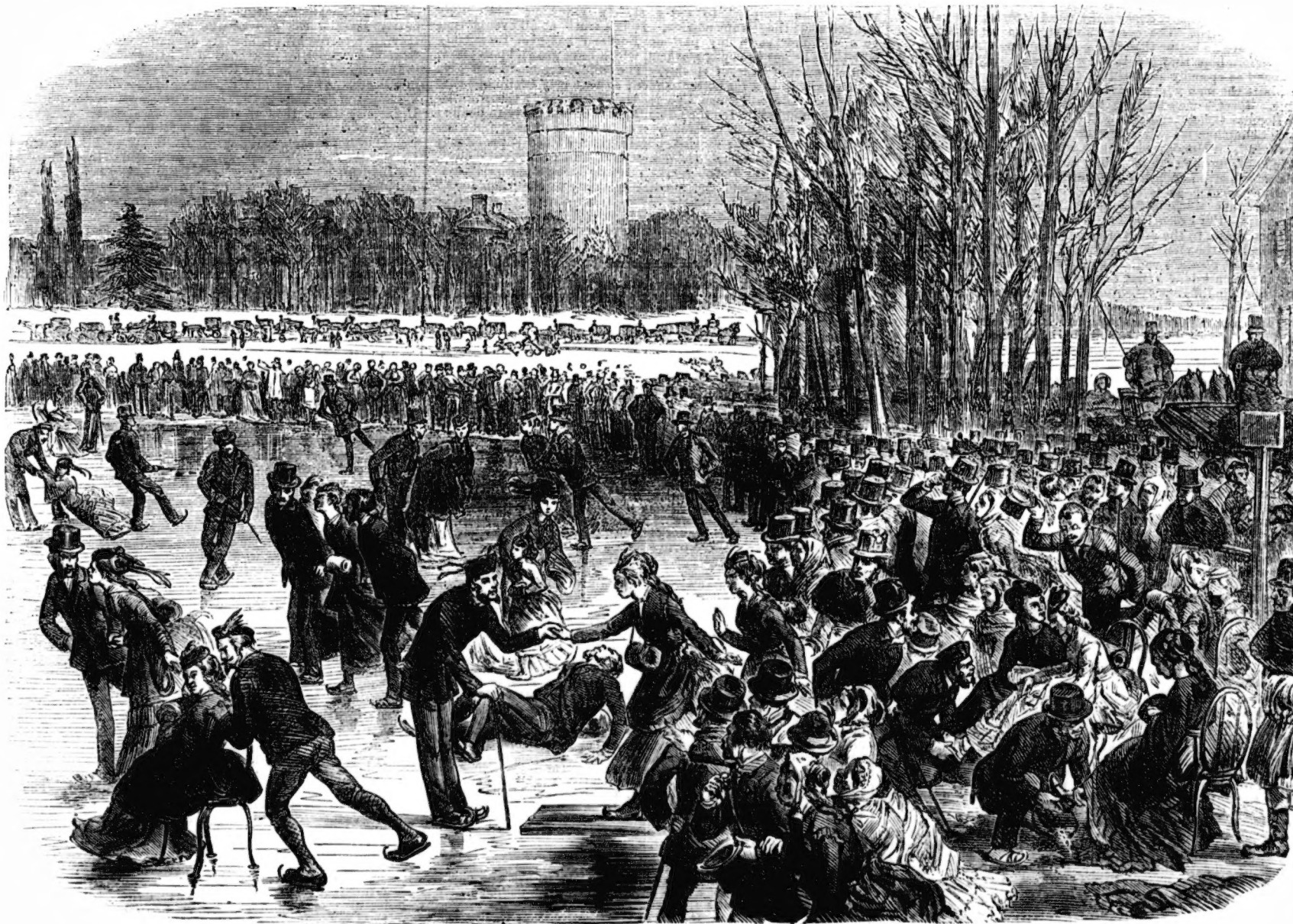
crumbling to dust, a cloud of which arose above the blank space left by the terrible collapse. These houses were occupied by Piedmontese labourers, and those of them who had escaped almost miraculously were crying aloud for help to extricate their comrades who had been buried beneath the ruins. The alarm was soon spread through the town, notwithstanding the remote quarter in which the accident had occurred, and the authorities quickly made their way to the spot, the Prefect of the Bouches-du-Rhône being followed by the 48th Regiment of the Line, a strong detachment of pompiers, and a brigade of gendarmes. The work of rescue was instantly commenced, amidst the greatest emotion and excitement of the spectators, and ten persons were released from under the timbers and framework of the buildings, most of them very grievously hurt. It was stated, however, that two were still missing, and it was not till after two hours unceasing exertion that their bodies were recovered. The first of these was that of a young unmarried man, twenty-four years old, and the second that of a woman of about thirty. During the whole time that the work was going on the rain continued to pour so unceasingly that there was considerable danger from the walls that yet remained standing, and, in order to avoid a fresh accident, it was necessary to abandon any further attempt; so that some horses in an adjacent stable, which had been buried in the ruins, were left unaided, and a cordon of soldiers was drawn round the whole place in order to restrain the dangerous curiosity of the crowd.

SKATING IN THE BOIS DE BOULOGNE.

THE Skating Club is now an established institution in Paris, and this winter's frosts have afforded excellent opportunities for the members to practise the art and to display their skill therein; while crowds of both sexes have day after day assembled to witness the performances. Our Engraving represents the scene presented by the club's pond in the Bois de Boulogne while the sport was in full swing. A correspondent says that "when Paris recovered from its revolutionary panic, vast numbers repaired to the Bois de Boulogne, the Skating Club having declared the ice sound and issued tickets to the lady as well as gentlemen subscribers. A few of our Princesses, Duchesses, and Baronesses appeared on the frozen waters of the club, some venturing to glide about accompanied by their gentlemen friends, and some, muffled in furs, were driven by gallant cavaliers in sledges. It is fashionable now to *patiner*, but to my mind the French do not take to it kindly; they all look as if they would rather be at home by the fireside."

A MONETARY PANIC IN NAPLES.

THE results of a series of events which may not inaptly be compared to those which culminated in the Black Friday of English commercial history, are now shaking the fabric of Neapolitan society with fearful violence. Some four years ago an establishment possessing in many respects the character of a bank was started here, and at first as much as 17 per cent *per month* interest was paid to the depositors. This rate was reduced to 4 per cent for the term specified. Hundreds of persons deposited their money in the bank; and, as their returns were regularly paid, a feeling of the highest confidence was entertained by them in the stability of the establishment. Other speculators, equally sanguine of success, embarked in similar enterprises, until from 12 to 35 per cent *per month* might be obtained for deposits from some seventy-two of these commercial adventurers. The other day a terrible blow was inflicted on the unfortunate dupes, who had been enchanted by the deceptive vision of immediate wealth; for then it was known that they had been systematically swindled. About 100,000,000*fr.* have been thus sacrificed, and the available assets of the so-called bankers will not exceed 2,000,000 or 3,000,000. When we have stated these facts it will be readily understood that great distress prevails amongst a large contingent of the population; but no one who is not in the city can possibly realise the



MEMBERS OF THE PARIS SKATING CLUB ON THEIR POND IN THE BOIS DE BOULOGNE.

intensity of the panic by which the people are affected. The public indignation is loudly and emphatically expressed against the *collettori*—a class of agents who have induced persons by their favourable representations to invest money in the new enterprises. These men mixed with almost every rank of society, and their opportunities for transacting their business were thus most advantageous. The city seems as if had been desolated by a little civil war. Houses once known for sumptuous hospitalities are now shut up; some of the largest trading depôts are closed; pale and haggard faces are met at every step; the furniture, clothes, and jewellery of whole families have been pledged, and the estates of some of the richest of the citizens mortgaged. Ruffo Scilla, the arch-mover of the scheme which has terminated so disastrously, is in prison, with several of his associates; but, whatever may be the degree of his punishment, it cannot be possibly commensurate with the misery which he has caused.

MUSIC.

SATURDAY last proved the most musical Saturday in our remembrance. There was a Crystal Palace concert in the afternoon; and in the evening there were an opera at St. George's Hall, a ballad concert in St. James's Hall, and a miscellaneous concert in Exeter Hall. Under these circumstances, it being impossible to appear in three places at once, we can only allude briefly to matters which, otherwise, we should discuss at length.

The Crystal Palace Concert was among the best of the season as regards both vocal and instrumental music. It opened with the overture to "Zauberflöte"—a work always welcome alike to the learned and unlearned hearer. After it came the glorious unfinished symphony in B minor which Schubert has left as his most enduring monument. It is unnecessary for us to describe the impression made by a fine performance of this inspired music. Enough that the audience were held as by a spell from the first note to the last; and that they must have felt Schubert's genius, whether ready or not to voluntarily recognise it. Mendelssohn's "Meeresstille" was the second overture; and its vivid descriptiveness, well brought out by the orchestra, was thoroughly appreciated. Herr Joachim appeared as solo violinist, and introduced a concerto by Herr Max Bruch, only once before heard in England. Of course, the work enjoyed every advantage in performance, being played to absolute perfection; but the general result was not one of entire satisfaction. The slow movement is pleasing; but, though the others are very cleverly written, they lack that—we hardly know how to call it—which secures attention and sympathy. Herr Joachim also played a prelude and fugue by Bach, and excited genuine enthusiasm by his marvellous skill. Miss Wynne and Mr. Cummings, the vocalists, sang well-selected songs, and added much to the interest of the concert.

"Faust," at St. George's Hall, was an extraordinary business. We shall not criticise the performance, because it will be enough to mention that Gounod's best opera, which the public are accustomed to hear rendered more or less as it should be, was attempted by a chorus of twenty, a ballet of four, and a band of six. In the band one man acted in the threefold capacity of pianist, harmoniumist, and conductor. This, we fancy, is enough said about an affair suited only to the exigencies of country assembly-rooms.

The Ballad Concert at St. James's Hall gathered a very poor audience. For some reason or other, Saturday is a bad day for ballads; and the result is empty benches, where at other times there are serried ranks of eager listeners. But, if the entertained were few, the entertainment was ample and good. Songs of all sorts and periods appeared in the lengthy programme, interpreted by artists like Miss Wynne, Mdlle. Liebhart, Madame Patey, and Mr. Chaplin Henry. Variety was secured through the means of M. de Kontek's showy pianoforte-playing, the violoncello solos of Mr. Edward Howell, and the singing of the Orpheus Glee Union. To those who love ballads such an entertainment must have been thoroughly enjoyable.

There was no orchestra at the Exeter Hall concert on Saturday evening; instead thereof, the Anemoic Union (with Mr. Charles Hallé) played a classical quintet; and a Tonic Sol-Fa choir sang some part-songs. We unfeignedly regret that the orchestra is withdrawn, because with it departs the chief interest and value of Mr. Wood's enterprise. The concerts now, from an educational point of view, are no better than the common run of such things; and we therefore hope that Mr. Wood will see his way to bringing back the band as speedily as possible. He may rest assured that success awaits the man who perseveres with orchestral concerts for the people. Success may be long in coming, as it was with the Monday Popular Concerts; but it will come, nevertheless.

Madame Schumann made her first appearance for the season in St. James's Hall, on Monday night, and was received with acclamation. We hope, for the sake of public taste and discernment, that the applause showered upon her had reference more to past than present achievements. It is useless to disguise the fact from discerning men that Madame Schumann is now anything but a perfect pianist. Her execution, in the case of anybody else, would be called inaccurate to the point of slovenliness; while her reading of the music, like the manner of her playing, is simply an exaggeration. It is not pleasant to have to say this of a lady so eminent; but there is absolute danger that, protected by Madame Schumann's name and fame, indifferent execution will be accepted for what it is not. On Monday the German artist gave Beethoven's sonata in D minor, and joined Herr Joachim in the same master's sonata in A major. Other works in the programme were Schumann's quartet in F (op. 41) and Beethoven's charming trio in G (op. 9). Herr Stockhausen, the vocalist, made an immense impression by means of a fine voice and a most artistic style. He was recalled and encored amid well-nigh frantic applause. Of this artist we shall speak more at length by-and-by.

On Wednesday "Jephthah" was given by Mr. Barnby, in St. James's Hall; and on Thursday Mr. Randegger conducted a performance of, among other things, Sullivan's "Prodigal Son."

A SCHOOLMASTER NAMED MILLERY has been committed to the azules for writing threatening letters to various landlords in the county of Cork.

VRAIN LUCAS, the forger, who was put upon his trial in Paris, last week, for selling spurious autographs and letters to M. Chales, of the French Academy, and thereby defrauding that gentleman of about £6000, has been sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

THE NEW SAVINGS BANKS BILL.—In the Chancellor of the Exchequer's bill to amend the law relating to savings banks, it is provided that after Nov. 30, 1870, all receipts issued either before or after that day to the trustees of savings banks by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, in respect of money paid into the Banks of England or Ireland by such trustees, shall carry interest at the rate of £3 per cent per annum, instead of £3 5s. It is also arranged that every savings bank which is formed after the passing of the Act, and desires the benefit of the principal Act, must register every rule, and every alteration of a rule, made for the management of the bank.

PROGRESS OF JAPAN.—The Yokohama correspondent of the *New York Tribune* of Feb. 5 gives a striking account of the extraordinary progress made by Japan in a single decade. "Ten years ago," he says, "not a single steam-engine was to be found in the whole empire of Japan, and even a square-rigged ship was unknown. To-day there are no less than twenty steamers, owned and manned entirely by Japanese, in the offing before the capital." And he adds that at two of the open ports the manufacture of iron steamers is actually in progress. A telegraph is now stretched along the great high road to Jeddo, and will soon be extended from one end of the empire to the other. A railroad is also contracted for to connect the two great cities of Japan. Four lines of steamers run regularly to Europe, America, and the Chinese ports. A considerable coasting trade besides is carried on by first-class steamers and sailing-vessels. Raw silk is the chief support of the European steamers. Next comes tea, which furnishes the great bulk of freight for the American ports, very little going to Europe or its colonies. Silk-worm eggs furnish the third export; they go chiefly to Italy and France to re-establish the stock of worms suffering from disease. The export of worms alone last year amounted to nearly 5,000,000 dozs., the value of the raw silk was not far from 10,000,000 dozs., tea was from 3,000,000 to 4,000,000 dozs., and other products between 1,000,000 and 2,000,000 dozs.—making a sum total of 20,000,000 dozs.

COLUMBIA FISH MARKET.

ON Monday morning the new fish market, conveniently near the Shoreditch terminus of the Great Eastern Railway, was opened under very encouraging conditions. At six o'clock, all preparations having been completed by Saturday night, the sales were begun by Mr. Pibel and Mr. Reed. The agents for the new fish market, we may here state, are Messrs. M'Namara, who hold the same office for the Great Eastern Railway; and, as it is in contemplation by Miss Burdett Coutts to make a tramway from her slightly and commodious market-place to the terminus of the line by which nearly all the fish from the eastern counties is now brought to London, the appointment in regard to this agency was no doubt the best that could be made. Mr. John Sapsford, who looks after most of the good works instituted by Miss Coutts at the East-End, has the personal superintendence and control of the market.

The market was well supplied, not only from Yarmouth and the other eastern sources, but from the west and north. Of trawl or wet fish Mr. Pibel sold 113 cases, of which as many as fifty-four came from Plymouth. The price ranged from 20s. to 40s. the case, prime mullet bringing 3s. the dozen, and whiting 7s. the pad. From Yarmouth soles and plaice were fairly plentiful, the first selling for 70s. the trunk, while the less-esteemed fish brought from 15s. to 18s. the pad. Fresh herrings from the same fishing town were sold for 30s. the barrel, and cured fish for 22s., the number in each barrel being from 450 to 500 or more. There were 1000 packages of "bloaters" in the market, and customers for the greater part were readily found. The codfish from Whitby made no great show. Boxes containing four small fish commanded 8s., and this price for dead cod considerably under the average size must be accounted high. There was salmon in the market, from 1s. 8d. a pound upward, and it was soon bought, principally at higher prices than the figure we have named. As one of the most hopeful signs, it may be mentioned that West-End dealers, noted for their willingness to give "almost anything" for what they or their customers want, were among the buyers. There was some disappointment as a consequence of the improper packing by which most of the prime fish from the west of England was at the bottom and the most of the inferior kinds at the top. Those purchasers whose mere presence in the market was an encouragement, if for no other reason than that they were known to have come expressly to buy the best, were in some cases deprived of the opportunity of buying at all. This, however, was the only serious drawback to the success of a first day; and it will be surprising, indeed, if the persons who are in fault do not take a hint, and remove all ground of complaint for the future. With ordinary care in meeting the requirements of a profitable class of customers, the Shoreditch fish market cannot fail to make a stand. It is, taking into consideration the recent improvements in railway accommodation, almost as conveniently situated for dealings with all parts of London as if it were two miles further west. The Shoreditch station of the North London Railway is close at hand; so that, by this line, fishmongers at Richmond, Kew, Hammersmith, Acton, Hampstead, Kentish Town, Caledonian-road, Islington, and other outlying districts will be able to send direct into Columbia Market for their fish. The Metropolitan railway-station in Moor-gate-street is also within tolerably easy distance, and this opens up communication with Marylebone, Paddington, and Bayswater.

A few words for the past as well as the present and future of Columbia Market. Everybody knows that it was the benevolent purpose of Miss Burdett Coutts to afford some kind of refuge for the barrow folk at a time when, by an edict of Sir Richard Mayne, their street occupation was threatened. The open square of her eastern market, a fine space inclosed by buildings which might architecturally adorn the richest quarter of a rich city, was freely given to the humble tradesmen known as costermongers. But the police order was never carried out. It never could be carried out. Markets in England grow up where the marketers list. It used to be said of a newspaper that nothing was harder to establish, and nothing harder to kill. You may say just the same of a market; and it is useless to disguise the fact that, as a place intended for the humblest order of dealers and buyers, this noble market of Miss Coutts's building, so complete in all its plans and so well adapted to the uses of the poor, has been, so far as they are concerned, a failure. It would seem really as if nothing will ever tempt "the people" to enter stately gateways when they can get what they want outside. It is a truth, at all events, that no closed market in any part of England has ever been truly popular, whereas the open markets, which have grown up anyhow, flourish without fear of rivalry. The wholesale trade will give Columbia Market a far better chance; and we may even hope that the retail trade will come also in time; for, surely the working classes cannot fail to see the advantages they will have in dealing there. The space now covered by a light roofing of iron and glass is given up, rent free; so that purchasers need not suppose they are contributing to satisfy the demands of an exorbitant landlord. There are 110 stalls in the market, twenty being appropriated to wholesale dealers, and the remaining ninety to the "bona fides," or middlemen, and the retailers. There is not a requirement which could have been suggested, and which has not been fulfilled. There is not a bar which foresight could have perceived in the way of success, and which has not been prevented.

A PARLIAMENTARY PAPER shows that in 1867 there were run over and killed in the streets of London ninety-six persons, while 1284 were injured. In 1868 eighty-three were killed and 1265 injured. During the first half of last year sixty-two were killed and 764 injured.

MDLLE. ROSA BONHEUR.—One of the later pictures of this gifted painter, "Shetland Ponies," has been engraved by Mr. C. J. Lewis, and is now in course of publication by Mr. F. Herbault, of the Strand. As the original work, now in possession of the Marquis of Lansdowne, to whom the print is dedicated, bears a date as recent as 1867, the interest and value of the transcript are enhanced by the freshness of the subject. Evidently studied from nature, as are all the compositions proceeding from the same hand, the wild group here depicted gives, with its wilder background of mist-shrouded landscape, a strikingly truthful idea of Shetland scenery. A killed native of the island is dragging along by their halters two shaggy little shelties, whose unmanageable action, starting eyes, and unshed hoofs broken very sufficiently their savage state. A gleam of light on the distant tarn somewhat relieves the gloomy aspect of the wet and barren waste; and the top of Mount Rona, or one of the highest of the not very high mountains of Shetland, rises imposingly above a drifting wreath of grey sand. Altogether, the design is highly characteristic and picturesque, and the engraver has done his work excellently.

IMPROVEMENTS IN LOCOMOTION.—Sir Joseph Whitworth, at a dinner of the Foremen Engineers last Saturday, deprecated the use of horse tramways as unsuited to the times. He further intimated his opinion that "mechanical engineers have a right to enter their protest, considering the many obstructions there have been for many years past to the employment of road locomotives." Sir Joseph Whitworth thinks it quite possible to produce a small, light locomotive, which would work quietly and effectively for use on roads; but, as a preparatory condition, he recommends that the roads should be better made, and kept in a proper state of surface by the use of steam-rollers, steam sweeping-machines, and other appliances. The present system of road-making, in which the rough stones are commonly left to be worked in by the wheels of carriages and the hoofs of horses, he condemns not only as obstructive to the use of locomotives, but causing very serious wear and tear to both carriages and horses. Whether or not with the view of preparing for the traffic of steam-locomotives, we should certainly mend our ways in respect to the making of roads. Macadam introduced a great and beneficial reform; but time moves on, and it is now necessary to improve upon Macadam. The use of the steam-roller would do something, but not everything. We destroy our macadamised roads almost as fast as we make them by a clumsy and ill-advised process of cleansing. Everybody knows that, to be preserved in good condition, a road made on the principle to which Macadam has given his name, must be protected from standing water. If the rain is allowed to lie upon it, first the surface, and then the substratum, will become rotten. To avoid this, macadamised roads are in theory constructed with a transverse convexity, and the water is supposed to run off on each side to the gutter by the footpath. Now, let a road so made be perfect, in less than six months it will be level, or, in bad cases, concave transversely, and thus come to be a water conduit, or something nearly as bad. This result obtains from two causes—the convexity is originally made, not by constructing the solid bed with a rise in the centre, but by heaping up the loose fragments of stone in the middle of the road; and in cleansing the streets, whether with machine or hand mud-scrapers, the rubble and slush on the surface is drawn away from the centre to the sides.

HARVEY'S TORPEDO.

MOST interesting official trials have been carried on, by order of the Admiralty, during the past fortnight, at Portsmouth, with a sea-towing torpedo, invented by Commander Harvey. Preliminary trials were made on the 11th inst. by Commander Harvey in the *Stork* gun-boat, but which vessel being too slow, the *Camel* steam-tug was ordered out for this service. Being found to answer well on a special trip, the official trials were commenced on the 17th, under the superintendence of Captain Boys, R.N., of the *Excellent*, and continued throughout the following day.

The *Royal Sovereign*, converted turret-ship, was sent out of port to be operated upon by unloaded torpedoes, both vessels being regularly and skilfully manœuvred, the *Camel* to strike her adversary with the torpedoes, and the *Royal Sovereign* doing her best endeavours to avoid being struck by them. The torpedoes used were fitted with explosive bolts as if for service, but of course were without any powder charge, their proper action being rendered evident by the piercing of the capsule of the exploding bolt.

The first practice was made against the *Royal Sovereign*, at anchor, with 76-pounder torpedoes towed at an angle of 45 deg. from the wake of the *Camel*, with fifty fathoms of tow-line, and at the speed of seven to eight knots. Eight attacks were made, in all of which the torpedoes were brought into collision with the ship attacked, striking her hull at depths varying down to 16 ft., and variously on the port quarter, abreast of the funnel, starboard side, abreast the mainmast, &c., according as the attack was made from right astern, right ahead, or crossing. On board the *Royal Sovereign* the turrets were manned, and rounds were fired at the attacking vessel to estimate the chances of hitting her during the performances of her operations. The rounds got off while the *Camel* was attacking up to the time of the collision of the torpedoes never exceeded two, except in two instances. Two further operations were made whilst the *Royal Sovereign* remained at anchor, to ascertain the value of a peculiar method of attack suggested by the inventor.

Six attacks were next made upon the *Royal Sovereign* under way, the *Camel* steaming from ten to eleven knots and towing 76-pounder torpedoes, with fifty fathoms of tow line, from each quarter, both torpedoes divergent at 45 deg. The *Royal Sovereign*, going at from eight to nine knots, made strenuous efforts to get out of the way, and employed various tactics to foil her enemy; but she could not in any case succeed, although handled with the greatest skill and dexterity by Staff-Commander Hills. The torpedoes struck the ship at depths varying down to 16 ft., and in two cases striking right under the bottom, the *Camel* attacking variously—coming up from the stern, crossing the bow, and coming down upon from ahead. The number of rounds from the turrets of the *Royal Sovereign* got off during these successful attacks upon her, varied from two to twelve. In one case the tow-rope was not sufficiently rapidly veered to secure the actual contact of the torpedo.

In the above experiments the torpedoes were fitted, in six instances, with the safety-key, the action of which was considered to be so certainly proved that for convenience it was discontinued during the remainder of the operations. The *Camel* was also handled with admirable skill and dexterity by the master, Mr. Mayne.

One experiment was made, with like success, to show that by the management of the tow-rope, a vessel discovered, in passing, to be friendly, the torpedo could be kept clear of her. Great credit is also due to the manufacturer, Mr. Nunn (London Docks), for the strength and reliability of the torpedoes and machinery for working, both withstanding the heavy battering and severe strains so suddenly and so repeatedly brought upon them. These official trials have now distinctly proved the correctness of the opinions already expressed of the important value and efficacy of this formidable system of attack.

OBITUARY.

THE BISHOP OF CHICHESTER.—The Right Rev. Ashurst Turner Gilbert, D.D., Bishop of Chichester, died, on Monday morning, at his residence, the palace. His Lordship, who was the son of the late Captain Thomas Gilbert, R.N., was born in 1786, and had nearly reached the end of the eighty-fourth year of his age. Having received his preliminary education at the Manchester Free Grammar School, he proceeded to Brasenose College, Oxford, where, in 1809, he and the late Sir Robert Peel obtained first-class honours in classics. After he had filled the offices of Fellow, Tutor, and Principal of the college Dr. Gilbert became Vice-Chancellor of the University from 1836 to 1840, the late Duke of Wellington being Chancellor. In 1842 Sir Robert Peel recommended him to the Queen as the successor of Dr. Shuttleworth in the see of Chichester, and he was accordingly promoted to that office. Though his Lordship's name has not been prominently before the public of late, he took a conspicuous part in what may be called political polemics, and was mobbed at Brighton on one occasion for supporting Mr. Woodward's scheme of middle-class education. The right rev. prelate was in comparatively good health until a short time before his final illness; but on Saturday last symptoms were perceived which indicated that his death was approaching, and the worst apprehensions were realised on Monday, when his Lordship died, as intimated, at a ripe old age.

BARON NATHANIEL DE ROTHSCHILD.—Baron Nathaniel de Rothschild, one of the partners in the great mercantile house of that name, died in Paris last Saturday morning, in his fifty-eighth year. He was the third son of the late Baron Nathan Meyer Rothschild (whose death occurred in 1836), by Hannah, daughter of the late Mr. Levi B. Cohen, and was born in 1812; he was consequently a brother of Baron Lionel de Rothschild, M.P. for the city of London, and of Sir Anthony de Rothschild, Bart., and elder brother of Baron Meyer, M.P. for Hythe, and grandson of Meyer Amschel Rothschild, the original founder of the fortunes of the family. From early life he took an active part in those great monetary transactions with which the house of Rothschild has so long been identified but for upwards of eighteen years he had suffered from an affection of the spine, which, after inflicting upon him prolonged tortures, had produced almost complete paralysis, and culminated in the loss of sight. In this deplorable condition, however, the late Baron maintained a cheerfulness which surprised all who had access to him, and in no respect abated his active interest in affairs. A French and an English secretary read to him all the journals and periodical literature of the day. His memory was singularly retentive, and his judgment, especially in matters of politics and finance, seemed to become more acute from his deprivation. He was frequently consulted on such subjects by men of all parties, and had become, moreover, a kind of social arbiter, whose opinion was sought on every difficult question. In spite of his long residence in Paris, he was an enthusiastic Englishman, devoted to English literature and the study of English politics. His magnificent house in the Rue Faubourg St. Honoré was a constant resort of the political and literary celebrities of France and Germany. His loss will be much felt in the society of Paris, where he was universally known and esteemed, as well for his great ability and social qualities as for the widespread charity for which his family is everywhere distinguished. The deceased Baron married, in 1842, his cousin Charlotte, daughter of the late Baron James de Rothschild, of Paris—whose death occurred about a year ago—by whom he has two sons, James Edward and Albert, the elder of whom has already acquired distinction as an advocate at the Paris Bar.

A BURGLARY took place at Salford on Tuesday, at which the thieves, being disappointed in their expectations, set fire to the house, leaving a note of complaint as follows:—"Dear Sir,—Sorry we cannot find your money. We return your likeness (alluding to a portrait which was left in the handkerchief). Bad luck to you that you did not leave some. Good-by. We've drunk your health with your wine."

HANGED AND BROUGHT TO LIFE AGAIN.

A STRANGE story is told by the *Louisville Commercial* of the 26th ult. of the resuscitation of an executed criminal. A man named Kriel, in that city, was lately sentenced to death for murdering his wife, and was accordingly hanged, in the middle of last month. Mr. Kriel, we are told, "went to his doom grim, implacable, and unnaturally firm." As is not unnatural with gentlemen in his position, "his desire to live was paramount to every earthly desire." When the drop fell, it was observed that the closed hands and position of the legs and feet of the culprit remained entirely unchanged, "showing a tremendous exercise of will and control of nerve." The neck was not broken, and General Whittaker, who was present at the execution, declared that pulsation in the carotid arteries of the neck was discernible after the gaol surgeon and his assistants declared life to be extinct. After hanging some minutes Mr. Kriel was cut down, and his body placed in a coffin: "the eyes, that stared half open when the cap was withdrawn, remained closed after a slight touch upon them, and the face assumed an appearance of rest. The red flushing of the cheeks came back to a certain extent, and the dark colouring on the neck under the knotted rope partially disappeared." No one seemed to have any charge of the body, and it was driven away in a hearse to the vault in the cemetery. "Now," says the *Commercial*, "comes the closing scene in this strange story. Near midnight a light wagon was driven rapidly out of Walnut-street, in which were seated three muffled silent figures; one of them a surgeon of great experimental knowledge, a firm believer in the theory of resuscitation of animal life through the galvanic process. In the wagon were a mattress and several blankets. The wagon halted near the cemetery fence; the horse was held by the driver, and two men went to the vault, carrying between them a large sack well filled. In a short time they returned bearing with them a motionless figure shrouded in a blanket. The figure was placed on the mattress, and in silence the wagon was driven back to the city. The body was conveyed to the surgery of a most skilful and learned surgeon, where some ten or twelve excited and expectant students stood anxiously awaiting the arrival of the strange party. The body was placed in a recumbent position on the table, the clothing loosened, the chest extended, and an incision made in one of the veins of the arm. At first but a small drop of dark-coloured blood came forth, but repeated incisions and manipulations of the body caused it at last to trickle forth more freely. The galvanic battery was then applied, and in less than fifteen minutes the warm blood commenced to course through the chilled body, and at last the eyes were opened. The students stood appalled, and could hardly realise the extent of the demonstration before them. One of them spoke to Kriel, asking him, 'Are you sensible?' The eyes answered expressively, and the lips opened ineffectually, for no speech came forth. Stimulants were poured down the throat of the revived criminal, and in less than an hour after he had been placed in the surgery Kriel sat up and asked them, 'What have you done? Am I alive?' The consternation and yet the professional delight of the spectators were loudly expressed. Steps were immediately taken to save the life thus marvellously restored. Strangers disguised Mr. Kriel, furnished him with means, and by daylight a man, weak and tottering, but firm and immovable in his demeanour, crossed the river, and was last seen by a watchful, silent friend, who kept near him on the train leaving Seymour, Indiana, on his way to an unknown, but it is to be hoped a better, future." Such is the tale told by the *Louisville Commercial*, which does not tell us where Mr. Kriel proposes to spend his "better future." Possibly he arrived in England with the last mail, in which case we may hear of him as a candidate for Tipperary, with every prospect of success.

POLICE.

A FRAUDULENT "COUNT" AND A "FISHY" WITNESS.—Arthur de Cissy, alias Martenay, alias Count de Belfort, alias Count de Cissy, alias De Feugeretz, alias De Wertenghen, &c., a native of France, was brought up on a warrant, before Sir Thomas Henry, charged with obtaining a large quantity of silk, value £134, the property of Louis John Durnet, silk merchant, 12, Rue Grange Bat-talier, Paris, by fraudulent pretences. Mr. Abrams defended the prisoner. Mr. Albert interpreted the evidence. Nathaniel Druscovich, inspector of detective police, deposed that he received a warrant (produced), signed by Sir Thomas Henry, and succeeded in apprehending the prisoner last Saturday, at Maida-hill. William Barber, 22, Fitzroy-square, a retired soldier, said he knew the prisoner as the Count de Belfort. He (witness) had received goods on behalf of the prisoner, who lodged at the house under that name. Believed the writing in four letters produced to be that of the prisoner. Inspector Druscovich.—It is a singular thing, Sir Thomas, that the silk was sold to the proprietor of the Westminster Hotel, in Paris, who covered his chairs with it. The prosecutor entered the hotel and identified the silk and the chairs, as the same he sent to a "Count" in London. That is how the property was traced. Alexander Obah said he was a wine-merchant, but he also did transactions on commission. He knew the prisoner by the name of Martenay only. He (witness) purchased the pawn tickets, in June, of a man named Brown. They were in the name of "Cissy." In answer to Sir Thomas Henry—I knew Brown. I met him in the City. I did not ask him who "Cissy" was, nor why he (Brown) pledged goods in that name. I believed Brown was a gentleman who did business in that way. I ordered my wife to redeem the goods. Sir Thomas Henry.—The prisoner is charged with fraudulently obtaining those goods from a merchant. It appears that you had possession of part of that property. Upon your oath, was not the prisoner the man who sold you those tickets? The Witness—I swear he was not. The man's name was Brown. Sir Thomas Henry.—Something more is wanted than a name. Witness—I believe I have the receipt in my pocket. Witness produced a receipted bill and handed it to Sir Thomas Henry. Witness examined—I did not ask Brown how he came by the tickets. Sir Thomas Henry.—The

name on this receipt is Brine. Witness—Oh, yes! it was Brine. Inspector Druscovich.—The bill, Sir Thomas, is dated January, not June, as the witness stated. It is dated at the very time the prisoner was lodging at that house. Sir Thomas Henry (to witness)—If you do not tell me who Brine is I will tell the police to make further inquiries, and probably you will be charged with receiving the stolen property. Inspector Druscovich.—The ink on this bill, Sir Thomas, is wet. The witness appeared very confused, and at first said he had just placed it in some ink on the desk. Sir Thomas Henry.—When was that receipt written? From what the officer says it appears that it is quite fresh. Witness said it had been written more than a year ago. Sir Thomas Henry ordered Inspector Druscovich to take charge of the receipt. Mr. Burnaby (chief clerk).—Perhaps the witness would like to take a copy of the receipt first. Witness (quickly).—Oh, no, thank you. Sir Thomas Henry.—I should prefer that you did. Witness.—The receipt is not written by me. Sir Thomas Henry.—You are suspicious. I did not impute that to you. Paper was handed to witness, who took some considerable time in copying it, although it only consisted of a few lines. The copy and the original were handed round, and a similarity of the writing was noticed immediately. The witness said the receipt was signed by Brine, but was written by a friend named Garvoche, a painter. In answer to Sir Thomas Henry, the witness said—I will pledge my oath that I did not write that receipt. Sir Thomas Henry.—Take these two documents in your hand, and look at your own name. Say, can you see that the handwriting is similar? The witness replied that he could not. He could produce Garvoche on the next occasion. Inspector Druscovich asked for a remand, in order to produce witnesses from France. Sir Thomas Henry then remanded the prisoner.

A "FINE" IDEA.—James Evered, a decently-dressed man, of about twenty-five years of age, was charged before Mr. Vaughan, at Bow-street, on Wednesday, with obtaining £2 1s. 6d. by false pretences. Hannah Andrews, 17, Catherine-street, deposed that the prisoner came to her with a letter, purporting to come from her son-in-law, Frederick Desson, who had been locked up at the Hammersmith Police Court, and fined 40s., for betting. It requested her to pay the bearer (the prisoner) £2 for the fine and 2s. for the cab-fare. She was much astonished, but furnished the money. She only gave 1s. 6d. for the cab-fare. She has since learned that the statement respecting her son was false. Frederick Desson, the person alluded to in the letter, denied that he had ever been locked up and fined, or that he gave the prisoner authority to write the letter, which was a forgery. In answer to the prisoner, he said he had a brother out of employment, but did not know his handwriting. John Halliman deposed that the prisoner brought a similar letter to him requesting the same amount to pay the fine. Witness heard of the circumstances attending the other case, and seized the prisoner, whom he took back to Mrs. Andrews, and subsequently gave into custody. Police-Constable G. Trace, 316 E, took the prisoner in charge. He said that the letter was written by George Desson, brother of the second witness. In defence, the prisoner said he was asked to take the letter to Mrs. Andrews by George Desson. He did not know that Frederick Desson was not locked up. Mr. Vaughan committed him for trial.

ALLEGED CONSPIRACY AND ATTEMPTED FRAUD BY A JEWELLER.—Henry Roach, respectfully dressed, stated to be a dealer in jewellery, residing in Pelham-street, Brompton, attended before Mr. Newton, at Worship-street, on Wednesday, in answer to a summons which charged him with having endeavoured to obtain £4 by means of false pretences. Mr. Beesley, barrister, appeared for the prosecution, which was at the instance of the Society of Pawnbrokers. Mr. Louis Lewis, solicitor, defended. The evidence showed that in the month of December, 1868, a horse-shoe pin, apparently made of gold, set with blue enamel and rose diamonds, was offered in pledge at Mr. George Attenborough's, pawnbroker, Old Kent-road. One of the assistants believing it to be genuine, lent 35s. upon it, but it was subsequently found to be comparatively worthless. The pin was not gold, the setting was not enamel, and the supposed rose diamonds were simply what is known in the trade as "jargoons." Its actual value was from 10s. to 15s. On the 24th ult. Mr. Attenborough had the pin put up for auction at the rooms of Messrs. Johnson and Dymond, Gracechurch-street. It was sold for 14s. by Mr. Prior, one of Messrs. Johnson and Dymond's assistant auctioneers. That witness in his evidence stated that to the best of his belief the defendant was the person to whom it was knocked down. He was well known at their rooms, as also at those of Messrs. Debenham and Storr, in King-street, Covent-garden. About six o'clock in the evening of the same day (the 24th) the defendant entered the shop of Mr. Walter, pawnbroker of the City-road, laid the pin in question down upon the counter and asked a loan of £4 upon it. In answer to the questions of the assistant, he stated that the stones were rose diamonds. Some doubts being entertained, the assistant submitted the pin to his master, who immediately saw that the stones were imitation diamonds. He decided to detain the pin, and the defendant, finding that he could not get it back, left the shop. Mr. Newton said that he should send the case for trial, and remarked that the question was an important one. Mr. Beesley then asked that the defendant might be committed not only for the attempt at fraud, but also for conspiring with another person to defraud. Mr. Newton, after Mr. Lewis had been heard on this point, said that Mr. Beesley had a right to ask it, and accordingly fully committed the defendant on the two counts to take his trial at the Middlesex Sessions. Bail was allowed.

CONFUSION IN THE CAB REGULATIONS.—At Clerkenwell, on Wednesday, the driver of hackney carriage No. 6021 was summoned by the police for having, at eight o'clock on the evening of the 19th inst., unlawfully plied for hire in the Pentonville-road, elsewhere than at a place or standing appointed for that purpose, contrary to the regulations of the Secretary of State. The case was fully made out by the police, but the defendant denied that he had plied for hire, and said that he only went to the place to get refreshment. Mr.

Cook, on referring to the regulations, said that it was unlawful to ply for hire, but no penalty was mentioned for so doing. The old Act, however, was still in force, and there a penalty was mentioned for plying for hire otherwise than at a public standing. He should amend the summons by cutting out the words "contrary to the regulations of the Secretary of State," and should order the defendant to pay a penalty of 2s. 6d. and costs. He also directed the police for the future to take out their summonses under the old Act, and not under the new regulations.

ROBBERIES BY YOUNG ROUGHES.—At Southwark, on Tuesday, Thomas Smith, eighteen, George Henry Ellis, seventeen, and Henry Lee, sixteen, were placed at the bar, before Mr. Benson, for final examination, charged with assaulting Mrs. Ann Flaws, in the St. George's-road, Southwark, and robbing her of a gold chain and locket. Mr. W. Moore, the prosecuting officer of the Associate Institute for Enforcing the Laws for the Protection of Women and Children, watched the case. It appeared from the evidence of the prosecutrix, the wife of a tradesman carrying on business at Newington-causeway, that between three and four o'clock on the afternoon of Wednesday, the 9th inst., she was going home along the St. George's-road, wearing a gold chain, to which was attached a gold locket, hanging from her neck over a cloth jacket. Suddenly some one came behind her and made a snatch, and upon her turning partially round the prisoner Lee attacked her and broke the chain; and before she could recover herself he possessed himself of her chain and locket, and ran away with them. She pursued him, but several other lads surrounded her, and she was advised not to follow them any further. Shortly afterwards she went to the station-house and informed the inspector on duty of the outrage and robbery, giving a description of the prisoner. On the following Monday she was called to the station-house, where she saw Lee in custody, and at once identified him as the lad who robbed her. As for the other prisoners, she did not recollect seeing them at the time. Several lads surrounded her after she was robbed, but she was so flurried that she could not identify them. Mr. Benson here asked how the other prisoners came into custody. Henry Laming, a detective officer of the L division, said he took all the prisoners into custody on Saturday night, the 12th, for loitering about the St. George's and London roads for the purpose of committing a felony, and when at the station-house he discovered that Lee answered the description of the lad who robbed the prosecutrix. The latter was sent for on Monday morning, and she at once picked him out among several other lads. The other prisoners were his companions and connected with other robberies in the same neighbourhood. Mr. Benson observed that, as far as the present charge was concerned, there was no evidence against them; but, as regarded Lee, unless he pleaded guilty he must go to the sessions for trial. Lee begged of his Worship to deal with him at once, and not send him for trial. Laming here asked for a remand, as far as regarded Smith and Ellis, as he should be able on a future day to produce evidence against them of other robberies of a similar nature. The day before he took them into custody they were supposed to have robbed a lady of a bag containing £18 and other property. Mr. Benson, consequently, further remanded them for a week. He sentenced Lee to two months' imprisonment, and at the expiration of that period to be detained in a reformatory for three years.

ASSURANCE SOCIETIES AND THE POOR.—A poor woman named Hewson, dwelling in Shadwell, came before Mr. Lushington, at the Thames Police Court, on Tuesday, and said that she had effected a policy of insurance for herself and another for her husband in the sum of £10 each, payable at death, in the Queen Insurance Company, which was hopelessly insolvent. She had paid 4d. per week on two policies for two years, and that was all thrown away. Since the bankruptcy of the "Queen," the closing of the offices, and the flight of the secretary, treasurer, and directors, she had been waited upon by the agent of another assurance office, the constitution and rules of which were precisely similar to the Queen, who said the rules were certified by Mr. Tidd Pratt, the late Registrar of Friendly Societies, and it was so stated on the printed prospectus. The agent solicited her to become a member of the new society on the same terms as the Queen, and she was anxious to enrol herself, her husband, and two children as members. Before doing so she wished to ask the magistrate if it was a safe concern, and if she would be justified in paying contributions of 8d. per week. Mr. Lushington was not surprised that the poor were becoming cautious, and made inquiries before they joined benefit societies which held out the hopes of large benefits for very small contributions. The Queen was, no doubt, a fraud on the poor who had contributed to it, and the exposures made in that court by numerous sufferers would prevent any more frauds being practised under its name. The certificate of Mr. Tidd Pratt, the Registrar of Benefit Societies, was no guarantee of their stability or solvency. The certificate merely stated that the rules and regulations were in accordance with the law, not that they would ensure the benefits promised in sickness or death. He could not give any opinion on the society the applicant was asked to join. She must exercise her own judgment in the matter.

THE ALLEGED MURDER AT WESTMINSTER BRIDGE.—Charles Nobbs, the porter at the India Office who is charged with throwing a woman over Westminster Bridge, was again examined at the Westminster Police Court on Monday. Colonel Dowling stated that he was on Westminster Bridge on the night in question, and saw a woman go to the parapet and disappear in an instant. No one touched her. He was quite sure that no one took her up in his arms. After some further evidence had been given, Mr. Elliott said it had been ruled by the Judges that if a man encouraged another to murder himself, and was present abetting him while he did so, such person was guilty of murder as a principal. Although the indictment charged the prisoner with throwing the deceased into the water, yet if he was present at the time she threw herself in and consented to her doing it, the act of throwing was to be considered as the act of both.

The body of the woman has not been found, and the prisoner was again remanded, Mr. Elliott consenting to take reduced bail.

MR. VINING'S BANKRUPTCY.—At the Bankruptcy Court, on Thursday, Mr. G. J. Vining, late lessee of the Princess's Theatre, Oxford-street, and also described as of No. 5, Upper Montague-street, Russell-square, dramatic artist, came up by adjournment, and applied to pass his examination and for his order of discharge. Mr. Graham, the official assignee, presented his report, which stated that the bankrupt's indebtedness amounted to £6191 15s. 5d., of which £5991 15s. 5d. was due to unsecured creditors, contracted in 1869. The assets were returned at £117 19s. 9d. Mr. F. Knight appeared for the assignees. He said, the bankrupt having answered the requisitions, he was content that he should pass his examination. With reference to the order of discharge, it appeared that the bankrupt had sustained great losses in not bringing out "Colleen Bawn" and "After Dark" in time, and looking at his large deficiency, the question was whether the bankrupt had not been guilty of rash and hazardous speculations, and also having regard to his large expenditure—£1500 per annum. He (Mr. Knight) had to ask the Court either to suspend the bankrupt's discharge or annex some condition for payment of his creditors to the order of discharge. Mr. Lewis, for the bankrupt, said that he had carried on the Princess's Theatre for several years with fluctuating profit and loss, and on Jan. 2, 1869, he had a surplus of £6000 at his bankers. His Honour said he did not think that engaging in theatrical management could be considered as coming within the meaning of rash and hazardous speculations. The bankrupt then passed his examination, and was granted an unconditional order of discharge.

A LEGAL UNIVERSITY.—The London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* writes:—"The legal profession are all on the *qui vive* regarding the measure of the Lord Chancellor said to be fully prepared, and about to be introduced into the Upper House on an early day. In the best-informed quarters the belief is that Lord Hatherley contemplates two measures—one affecting legal education, and the other the constitution of an entirely new court of appeal. The want of a more complete system of professional training has long been felt, and various measures of a tentative character have from time to time been adopted by the Benchers of the different Inns of Court. Attendance at lectures, and a system of examination for candidates ambitious of entering either branch of the profession, have gradually been established during the last five-and-twenty years; and a staff of professors now exists in Lincoln's Inn and the Temple, consisting of very capable and accomplished men; while the Law Society has made corresponding improvements with regard to the technical education of solicitors. But, as all this has been done by separate and independent bodies, having no actual tie or bond of unity between them, it has followed inevitably that their practices have been diverse, and to the outer world their various certificates of fitness carry no weight equivalent to that of a degree or a diploma. The Chancellor contemplates the erection of what will, I understand, be called a Legal University, to which the constituted bodies I have alluded to are to be affiliated, as colleges and halls are to the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford. From the heads of houses will be chosen, it is supposed by election, the members of the senate or governing body; and by their authority degrees of different grades and values will be given, attesting the proficiency of the student in knowledge of equity or law. When one comes to think of it, the wonder is why an organisation so simple and useful has never been created before."

HORRIBLE ATROCITIES IN SPAIN.—The Paris *Gaulois* gives an account of a horrible and mysterious affair in Spain. The story is that on Feb. 17 a band of people (number not stated) broke into a house at Alcira, a little village near Valencia, at three o'clock in the morning. They got in by making a hole in the roof. The name of the owner of this house was M. Baluda. He was in bed with his wife. The invaders pulled them out of bed and put gags in their mouths. Then they went to the rooms where six children were sleeping. These children they bound with cords, and then, in sight of their parents, they tore out their eyes and tongues. Afterwards they cut off the feet of M. Baluda and his eldest son, named Vincent, but purposely left the tendon near the heel unsevered, and then they hung them up head downwards. After these achievements, they ransacked the larder, made a good breakfast—jeering at their victims all the time—and left the house at daybreak. Two of the villains have been arrested. One, named Ferdinand Baluda, is a near relation of the family. He went by the alias of Cabot. The other man in custody is named Vincent Morera, alias Tortet. The number of the gang is not stated. They did not rob the house, and therefore it is supposed that they were impelled to execute a *vendetta à la Corse*.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, FEB. 19.

BANKRUPTcies ANNULLED.—J. ATKINS and W. COOPER, Middle-down, Blue-barnes.—A. M. CROWHURST, Aldermanbury, importer of fancy goods.—J. SLATTELL, Kensington-road, cheese-monger.

BANKRUPTcies.—F. A. DOWNING, Great Russell-street, engineer.—T. BIRDSELL, York, saddle-maker.—T. BRIND, Oxford, tobacconist.—C. BROWN, Tavistock, farmer.—R. L. COBB, Norwich, farmer.—F. W. P. CLEVELERTON, Saltash, attorney-at-law.—T. COOLING, Swinhead, wheelwright.—G. LEFFEL, Kidderminster, provision-dealer.—J. HALLALL, Accrington, tailor.—R. GRIMSHAW, Glastonbury, boot and shoe maker.—P. HANDLEY, Wisbeach, innkeeper.—C. C. AMOIT, St. Paul's-churchyard, draper.—R. MYERS, Leeds, solicitor.—J. PRIEST, H. CULCETH, L. HENRY, J. JACKSON, L. BEDFORD, and R. COOKSON, Warrington, implement agents.—J. S. HOFIELD, Staleybridge, provision dealer.—C. SCHWEINBRATEN, Watford, baker.—M. TINKLER, Stamford, builder.—F. WAREING, Oswestry, grocer.—W. J. L. WILSON, Ford, carpenter.—T. BILLINGTON, Stafford, baker.—R. PAGE, Greenwich.

SCOTCH SEQUESTERATIONS.—J. CRAWFORD, Glasgow, wine and spirit merchant.—J. NELSON, Wheatlands, farmer.

TUESDAY, FEB. 22.

BANKRUPTcies ANNULLED.—T. HUXLEY, Birkenhead, boot and shoe maker.

BANKRUPTcies.—T. MANN, Penge, builder.—G. PHILLIPS, Kensington, cheese-monger.—H. SHARPE, Edgware-road, china and glass dealer.—J. CARLISLE, Leeds, cloth manufacturer.—J. DAVIES, Truro, saddler.—J. HITCHON and H. LAW, Ramsgate, cotton waste spinners.—S. JOHNSON, Dover, gardener.—W. J. PARTRIDGE, Ilthorpe, butcher.—W. THOMAS, Llanrhydian, builder.—H. H. HAZARD, Sylvan-grove, Old Kent-road, engineer.

SCOTCH SEQUESTERATIONS.—T. POLLOCK, Glasgow, copper-smith.—J. SINCLAIR, Kilmarnock, innkeeper.—F. ROSS, Leith, blacksmith.—J. M. ANDERSON, Ullapool, merchant.

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